

Huskers Illustrated

**NEWS
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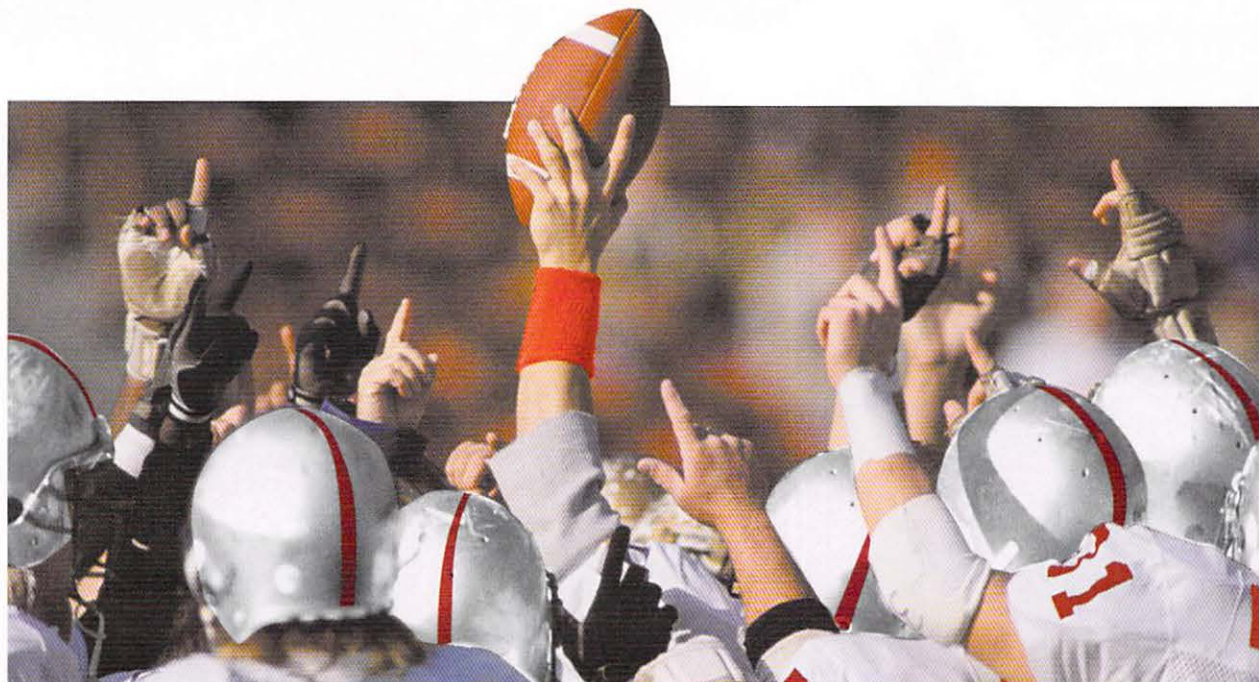
**In
the
Long
Run**



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champion (chăm'pē-on)

n. 1. A winner of first place in a competition. 2. One who shows marked superiority.



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How Fast?

*Coach knew he had a good one
in quarterback Crouch*



Brian Hill

A LOOK BACK at the Huskers Illustrated 1997 recruiting edition found these comments.

"We think Eric Crouch is one of the better option quarterbacks we've come across in many years . . . He has very good feet."

That was part of the evaluation from former Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne of one of the most coveted members of his final recruiting class.

After signing with the Huskers that February, Crouch exhibited his speed at the State Track Meet, finishing second to current Husker teammate Erwin Swiney in the Class A 100 meters. Swiney, running for Lincoln Northeast, was timed in :10.78, and Millard North's Crouch was clocked in :10.96. The fellow Nebraska recruits finished second (Swiney, :22.12) and fourth (Crouch, :22.37) in the 200.

Crouch's speed and good feet were never more in evidence than on his record-breaking 95-yard touchdown run against Missouri.

After looking to be trapped in the end zone for a safety, Crouch eluded that defender and would leave many more Tigers grasping for air on the long-distance jaunt. By the time he reached the other end zone, only teammate Wilson Thomas was in close pursuit.

Nebraska might not run the table and win nine more games and a national championship, but with a playmaker like Crouch at the controls, you've got to think they always have a good chance.

And even though they have yet to face a high-powered offense, you have to like the performance of the Nebraska

defense, which has not allowed a touchdown in two games and limited Missouri to 97 yards and no points in the last three quarters.

The Blackshirts might get a little more of a test this week. Iowa State has scored 30 or more points in six straight games, and junior college transfer Seneca Wallace just set a Big 12 Conference record with 18 straight completions against Baylor. And, oh by the way, the Cyclones also have tailback Ennis Haywood, who led the conference in rushing last season.

Games like this should help the Huskers prepare for Oklahoma and Kansas State down the road. If you missed it, the Sooners outscored the Wildcats 38-37 Saturday in Norman.

One big key for the 2001 Nebraska defense is depth. That has allowed the coaches to rotate fresh players into the game and also do more with special packages and matchups.

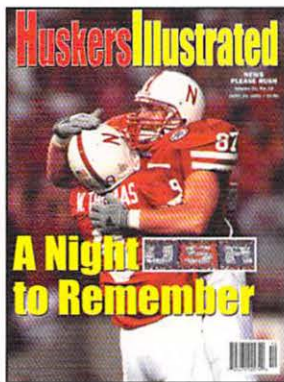
In our feature story in this edition of Huskers Illustrated, contributing editor Mike Babcock takes a look at situational substitutions and what goes into the personnel changes on defense.

One of the youngest members of the defensive unit — true freshman rover Philip Bland — is the subject of this week's player profile. Bland, who had a lot of reasons to become a Colorado Buffalo, picked the Huskers instead and has made significant contributions early.

Nebraska is 5-0, the the Big 12 campaign is in full swing. You can check out the early standings and the records of all of the Huskers' opponents in our "Scouting Report" section.

And of course, you'll find plenty more about the Huskers' latest victory and Crouch's memorable run. With possibly nine games to go in his college career, maybe he can top it.

Wouldn't that be something? ■



ON THE COVER

Senior quarterback Eric Crouch runs the option against Missouri. Photo by L.G. Patterson

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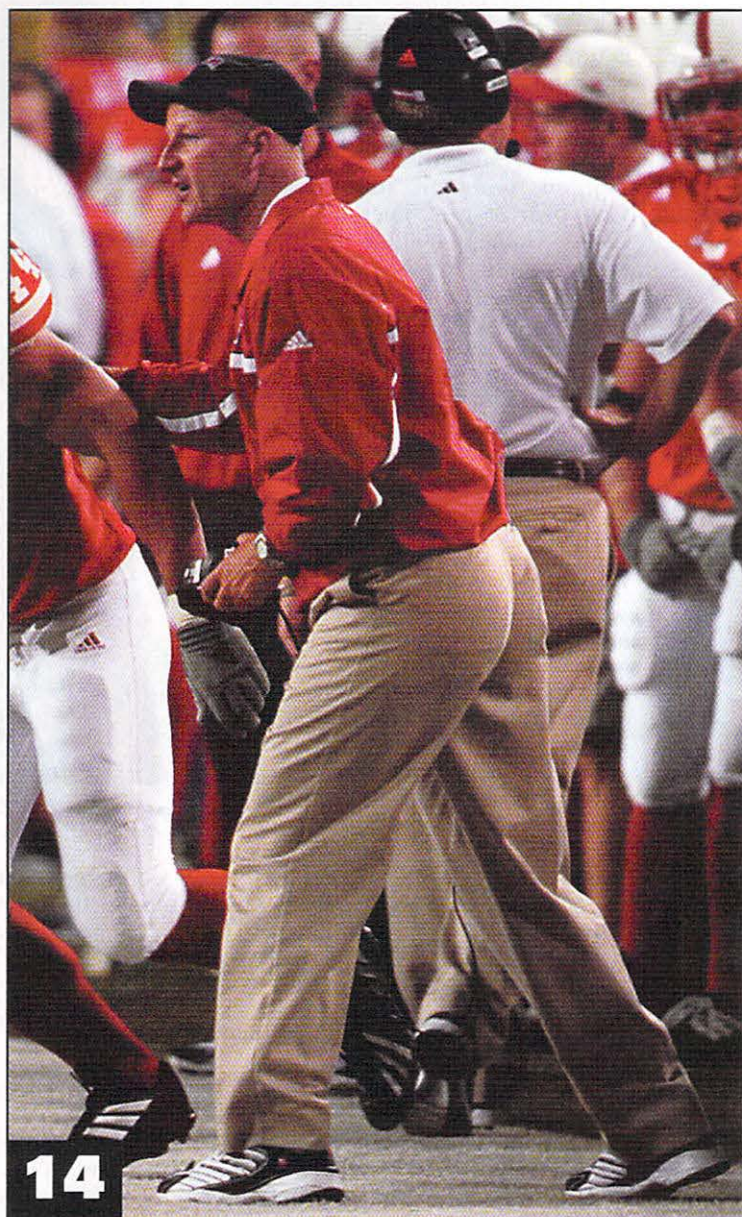
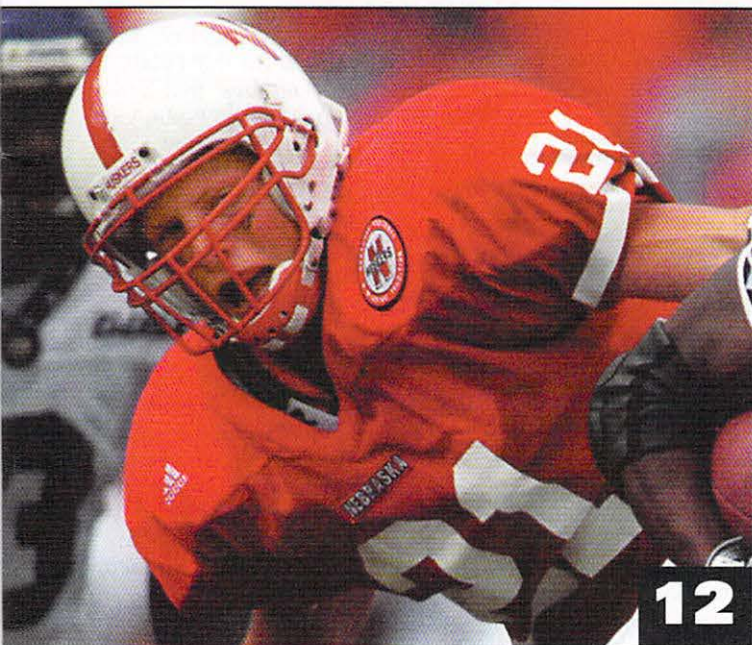
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Huskers Illustrated CONTENTS

OCT. 6, 2001 • Volume 21, No. 11

DEPARTMENTS

Letter From The Editor	4
NU Notebook	6
<i>Defensive linemen's contributions often can't be measured using traditional statistics.</i>	
State Of The Huskers	8
<i>Wingback Troy Hassebroek has learned the correlation between blocking and getting on the field.</i>	
From The West	10
<i>Coach Frank Solich is pleased with his team's start but knows that the true tests are ahead.</i>	
From The Beat	11
<i>Nebraska graduate assistant Jimmy Burrow has fond memories of his time in Ames, Iowa.</i>	
Profile	12
<i>True freshman Philip Bland's background would seem to argue against him being a Husker.</i>	
Missouri Game Recap	17
4th and Inches	21
Scouting Report	22
Missouri Game Statistics	24
Great Games at Memorial Stadium	26
<i>The 1977 Cornhuskers faced the very real prospect of their first 0-2 start since 1957.</i>	
Side Out	30
<i>Amber Holmquist has never had a problem keeping things in perspective.</i>	
Grid Recruiting	32
<i>Nebraska has enjoyed a strong recruiting presence in California over the past decade.</i>	
Crossword Puzzle, Huskernutz	36
Final Word	38



14 Quick Changes

Situational substitutions require the rapid processing of information and instantaneous communication between coaches in the pressbox and those on the sideline. *By Mike Babcock*

NEXT ISSUE

The review of the Iowa State game will be mailed Oct. 8.

Other 'Factors'

Everyone's contribution isn't always reflected in statistics. But those who watch the videotape know. It's like studying a baseball boxscore, "how many points someone scores," Nebraska defensive tackles coach Jeff Jamrog said. "You just don't see those other things that go along with it."

Consider a play early in the third quarter of the Notre Dame game.

The Fighting Irish lined up in a shotgun formation, third-and-16 at their own 38-yard line. Quarterback Carlyle Holiday took the snap, apparently intending to pass.

Cornhusker defensive tackle Jeremy Slechta came off the ball and fought a double-team, pushing it back toward Holiday, who was forced to step up in the pocket and to his left. At the same time, rush end Demoiné Adams was shedding a blocker as he angled toward Holiday.

Adams grabbed Holiday just before Slechta split the double-team to lend a hand in the sack, which was credited to Adams. "No one sees that except us coaches and probably the other players in the room," said Jamrog. "No media, no one knows what kind of effect Jeremy could be having."

That's often the case for defensive linemen, whose contributions as many times as not can't be measured using traditional statistics. So when the defensive coaches evaluate tape, they assign "factors."

Slechta was credited with a "factor" on the third-down play against Notre Dame.

"There are a lot of different ways you can get a factor," Jamrog said. "We want that number to be five and under."

So one out of every five plays they did something really positive."

That something positive can take various forms. It can be a tackle or a sack. It can be hurrying the quarterback, forcing him to throw before he's ready. And it can be forcing a fumble or recovering one. A defender can even earn a factor by drawing a penalty — such as holding — by an opponent.

"There are a wide variety of things you look at," Jamrog said.

"When you think about it, if you're out there for 26 plays and you only make one play (factor) out of 26 . . . someone's got to make a tackle. Someone's got to get pressure on the quarterback, all those type of things. So we really look hard at a factor grade."



Jeremy Slechta (56) and his fellow defensive linemen can be credited with "factors," even if they don't make the sack or tackle.

In some situations, a player can earn more than one factor on the same play.

Against Troy State, for example, nose tackle Jon Clanton scored a touchdown on a fumble recovery.

"So that's two factors," said Jamrog. "That's rare, but Jon obviously did it."

Clanton has earned a Blackshirt, not just because he moved up on the depth chart following Jason Lohr's season-ending knee injury but also because he has been making plays.

He really began to step up in the Alamo Bowl game, according to Jamrog.

Prior to the game, Jamrog asked, "Jon, are you ready to go?"

Clanton said he was, that all Jamrog needed to do was give him a chance.

"Hey, you make some plays early in the game and you'll get more playing time," Jamrog replied, adding jokingly, "You'd better make something happen in your first six plays."

Clanton immediately sacked the

Northwestern quarterback.

"So he comes to the sideline and goes, 'Coach, that was the third play,'" said Jamrog. "He realizes that ultimately the more playing time you get obviously is based on production."

A healthy Slechta has gotten his fair share of snaps. Early this season, "he came up to me and said, 'Coach, I don't see myself making maybe some of the big numbers (of tackles) or sacks that some other guys do, but I'm playing hard and doing my job,'" Jamrog said.

Jamrog agrees. More than once Slechta has pressured the quarterback and "someone else mopped up a sack," he said. "You don't see that from the stands. You just see the end result, the sack."

After games, defensive players are eager to find out how they graded overall.

"But they also want to know their factor grade," said Jamrog. ■

COMPARABLE SITUATION

The postponement of the Rice game because of terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., elicited recollections of the 1963 Nebraska-Oklahoma game, which was played at Memorial Stadium on the day after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"Certainly the situation back then was not a good situation," said Cornhusker Coach Frank Solich, who was a player on that Nebraska team. "I think it was very difficult for everybody."

"We as players at that time were not involved in any decision-making process. So we just went forward and played the game when they determined that it would be played. I think most everybody likes to try to get back to normalcy as much as possible, as quickly as possible. I guess that's how we tried to look at it. As tragic as it was, you tried to move forward with your life. And I think in this situation, certainly as drastic, as terrible as it is, at some point in time, everybody will try to move forward."

Then as now, young people were resilient.

"At my age, back in those days, I wasn't surprised by much," Solich said. "Like I said, we had very little control over it. There was no objection from players or anybody involved at that time. We just lined up and played the game. That doesn't mean we didn't have feelings or didn't recognize the seriousness of the situation."

PROPER PERSPECTIVE

The tragic events led to reflection on everyone's part. "Obviously, there's a bigger picture to life than football," said



Mark Vedral

Cornhusker weakside linebacker Mark Vedral. "I've always looked at it from the big picture. You play football for four or five years here. You treasure the experiences and the friendships you make. But then you move on. I think when something like this happens..."

"Maybe for somebody who gets off track a little bit, it really gets them refocused. The next day what's going to happen you don't know. You're not in control."

Some people thought athletic events should have gone on as scheduled the weekend after the terrorist attacks. But Vedral wasn't among those who thought that way.

"Personally, I didn't think sporting events should go on," he said. "I think it should be a time to be with your family and with your friends, just kind of take in what's going on here."

"People are looking at this the way they should. I don't think people are being selfish." ■

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

DESERVED REPUTATION

Nebraska football fans have often been complimented on their behavior. Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden even wrote an open letter to newspapers in Lincoln and Omaha, praising the behavior of Cornhusker fans after his team came to Lincoln and won.

After this year's Notre Dame game, Nebraska fans received similar praise. Tim Prister, editor of *Blue and Gold Illustrated*, wrote: "I didn't know which Nebraska fan to say it to, so I finally just stopped and said to the nearest red-clad fan, 'I've been covering Notre Dame football for 20 years and I've never seen anything like this. You are the most incredible fans I've ever seen.'"

Prister described Notre Dame's experience at Memorial Stadium as "what college football perhaps once was. This was what college football was meant to be. Fans loving their team, respecting the other and letting go of any animosity once the game is concluded."

"So if you're a Nebraska fan reading this, God bless you."

Nebraska fans can take pride in Prister's comments. Their attitude now helps shed the shame of history. The Nebraska-Notre Dame series was discontinued in the mid-1920s because of anti-Catholic sentiment, which apparently survived into the late 1940s, when the teams met again.

"If you know a Nebraska fan, please give him a copy of this because his attitude is a dying breed in college football stadiums across the country," Prister wrote.

Cornhusker fans are "the most incredible I've ever seen."

THURSDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

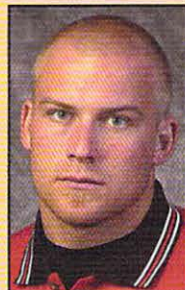
For the record, the Rice game was Nebraska's first on a Thursday night at home, and the Cornhuskers' fourth regular-season game on Thursday night overall. All four have been victories.

(Oct. 7, 1993)	at Oklahoma State, 27-13
(Sept. 8, 1994)	at Texas Tech, 42-16
(Aug. 31, 1995)	at Oklahoma State, 64-21
(Sept. 20, 2001)	Rice 48-3

STILL IN SHADOWS

Even though senior Jamie Burrow has made the most of his opportunity as the starting middle linebacker, true freshman Barrett Ruud has attracted a lot of attention at the position.

Burrow has taken it in stride. "I wouldn't say it fired me up," he told the *Lincoln Journal Star*. "It's different since I've been around here because usually the starter has all the focus. I've kind of been in the shadows the whole time. I've never really had the spotlight. I don't really need that."



Jamie Burrow

HE AIN'T HEAVY

Redshirted freshman cornerback Lornell McPherson has had impact as the No. 1 nickel back. He's gotten help from veterans in the secondary. "He's like my little brother," senior cornerback Keyuo Craver told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "It's a cool thing because I used to be in his shoes."

Craver, however, has played without redshirting.

IRISH SMILIN'

The third-ranked Nebraska soccer team fell to fourth-ranked Notre Dame, 1-0, in a physical contest Sept. 25 at Alumni Field in South Bend, Ind.

Senior midfielder Mia Sarkesian scored the lone goal at 17:30, as the Huskers slipped to 5-1-0. The Fighting Irish improved to 6-0-1.

"It was a good, hard, competitive contest," Nebraska Coach John Walker said. "It came down to set plays. They finished one, and we didn't. It was a good test for us."

The Huskers, who were outshot, 13-7, came close to putting a ball in the net several times in the second half — including two near misses by junior forward Christine Latham with just under 30 minutes remaining in the game. Despite being outshot, Nebraska outcornered the Fighting Irish, 8-4.

NU's last loss on the road had come in South Bend on Nov. 20, 1998. The Huskers are now 0-3-1 in the all-time series against Notre Dame. ■

Having A Blast

Wingback Hassebroek learned the correlation between blocking and getting on the field



**Mike
BABCOCK**

TROY HASSEBROEK HAS EARNED a couple of nicknames from his Nebraska football teammates. He answers to "Ram X" — or just "Ram" — and occasionally to "Baywatch."

The "Baywatch" nickname has something to do with the similarity between his last name and the last name of David Hasselhoff, one of the stars of the syndicated television series.

"Hasselhoff, Hassebroek, it's a long story," the Cornhusker wingback said.

The story behind the "Ram X" nickname might be shorter, but it's much less obvious unless you're familiar with terminology relating to the blocking assignments of Nebraska's receivers.

You might figure out the "Baywatch" connection after some consideration, but no way with "Ram X," which Hassebroek says sophomore quarterback Jammal Lord regularly calls him.

"Ram X" can be traced to the Cornhuskers' Fiesta Bowl game against Tennessee following the 1999 season. Hassebroek started at wingback that night, running a play designated "41 Ram Zip."

In simple terms, "41 Ram Zip" required a wingback "who liked to hit," said the 6-foot-4, 220-pound Hassebroek. "I was one of those guys that would sell out my body for whatever."

Whatever in this case was to "blow up the rush end," Hassebroek said.

"He doesn't know it's coming. It's an exciting play. I got him a couple of times. You're floating on a cloud after you get a knockdown. Then you're looking for somebody else to knock down."

The start was Hassebroek's first at Nebraska. And not only that, the Fiesta Bowl game was only the fifth in which he had played as a redshirted freshman. So it's not surprising that he was nervous beforehand. After the first contact, however, "the adrenaline was running," he said.

"I got in there and did my job. I had a blast."

Listening to the junior from Lincoln for a few minutes gives the impression he was having a blast before his first start. In fact, it seems as if he's had a blast ever since he got to Nebraska.

Hassebroek walked on but has a scholarship now. He was put on scholarship for the first time last spring, and it was renewed for a full year, beginning this semester.

Obviously, his goal was to earn a scholarship, if for no other reason than it relieves the financial burden on him and his family. But you get the sense his effort would have been the same, with or without the prospect of a scholarship because he has the definitive mindset of a walk-on.

Following a multi-sport career at Lincoln High, he contacted several schools, among them Kansas State, Iowa

State and Iowa. But "really, I didn't get any response," he said.

He considered state colleges, but, with encouragement from his dad, he decided that he could walk on at Nebraska, and if it didn't work out, he could transfer to a smaller school and be immediately eligible. If he went to a small school first and transferred to Nebraska, however, he'd have to sit out.

He was further persuaded to walk on at Nebraska by coaches who told him he would be making a mistake. "You had coaches saying, 'A lot of guys go up there and walk on and they get lost.' I just wanted to rub it in their faces," he said. "You can't tell me, 'You're not going to be good enough.'"

In addition to the challenge of doing something others told him he couldn't do, Hassebroek grew up not far from Memorial Stadium, in a neighborhood near State Fair Park. When red and white balloons were released after touchdowns, he could watch them rise above the rim of the stadium — and dream.

As a result, Nebraska had little trouble convincing him to walk on. "The opportunities are phenomenal here," he said. "And your parents are close enough, they can come and watch games."

Hassebroek was driven to succeed from the moment he began practice in August of 1998.

"You've got to have goals," he said.

"You've got to have your priorities straight. You don't want to be the guy that's on the scout team for five years. You want to contribute. You want to make that big block, make

a catch. It doesn't have to be a touchdown. The small things just add up for you."

Sean Applegate, who also walked on from Lincoln High and played wingback, helped him achieve his goals. Applegate, a junior when he was a freshman, provided encouragement as well as advice.

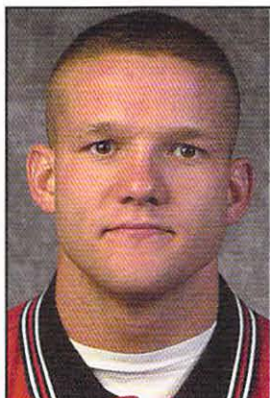
"I even went over to Sean's house a couple of times," said Hassebroek. "I'm sure he got tired of me calling. 'Sean, I need help on this. What are you doing? Can I come over?' It was kind of a connection thing. That's what the Husker program entails, helping each other out."

Now Hassebroek is the connection for his younger brother Adam, a freshman walk-on — and a wingback. "Little by little, each day you tell him something different," Troy said.

He has emphasized to his brother the correlation between blocking and getting on the field as a wide receiver. "I just love going out there and blocking, whoever it is," he said. "I could contribute like that, so that's what I took pride in. I could always work on receiving. It got me up there."

It also got him the nickname "Ram X."

"Baywatch" is a story for another day. ■



Troy Hassebroek had his first career catch in the Alamo Bowl.



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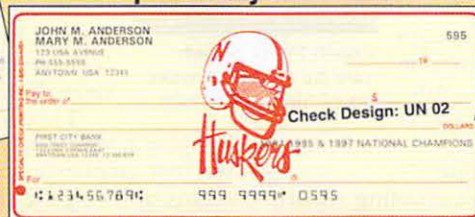
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Answering Questions

**Solich pleased with start
but knows that true tests await Huskers**



**Terry
DOUGLASS**

IT'S STILL EARLY in this marathon of a season, but as Nebraska forges ahead into the heart of its Big 12 Conference schedule, head coach Frank Solich says he likes the look of the Cornhuskers.

Several of the questions hanging over the 2001 edition of the Big Red already have been answered. Some areas that were thought to be weaknesses have evolved into strengths, and the players who were expected to lead the way for Nebraska have generally failed to disappoint.

Throw in an excellent attitude and work ethic, and Solich has to like the way the Huskers are coming together.

"I like the makeup of this team in terms of its chemistry," Solich said. "They've not only tried to show up on game day to play football, but they've really practiced well to make it work. They've never been satisfied with anything. They want to just keep getting better. That's the way you'd like it to work. That's the kind of team you'd like to coach."

After losing several key performers from last year's 10-2 team, Nebraska entered this season with its share of skeptics. Even Solich went on record in the preseason, saying that when he added it all up, it didn't appear to him that the Cornhuskers should probably be the No. 4-ranked team in the country.

Without a doubt, the most pleasant surprise for Nebraska has been the dominating play of its defense. Despite returning eight players with starting experience, few outside of the program expected great things from the defense. After all, the Blackshirts lost two of their bigger names when rush end Kyle Vanden Bosch and middle linebacker Carlos Polk completed their eligibility.

Perhaps a Sports Illustrated preseason scouting report, quoting an anonymous opposing coach, best summed up what outsiders thought of the Blackshirts: "They're going to struggle defensively," the coach said. "The safeties can't cover, and last year, the secondary had trouble matching up with No. 2 receivers. If you leave your corners out on an island, you better be pretty good up front. Nebraska doesn't get inside pressure from the line."

So much for scouting reports.

So far, Nebraska's defense has stymied opposing offenses. Senior cornerback Keyuo Craver flashes a smile when he's reminded of the publication's analysis.

"A lot of people doubted us even before the season started," Craver said. "They didn't know what we had. We're not out there to impress anybody as individuals. We're out there to do our jobs and make things happen as a team."

According to Nebraska's defensive players, a number of factors have combined to help the Blackshirts turn things around after a disappointing 2000 season.

First, defensive coordinator Craig Bohl said the Huskers are tackling better. After sloppy tackling plagued Nebraska most of last season, Bohl's unit made defensive fundamen-

tals a major focus in spring practice and during fall camp.

Added depth bolstered by the emergence of several young players, including defensive backs Lornell McPherson, Philip Bland, Pat Ricketts and Lannie Hopkins and linebacker Barrett Ruud, has also been a significant factor. The Blackshirts have also made good on their vow to be more of a destructive, turnover-seeking defense.

The defense's play was especially crucial early in the season as the offense struggled at times to find its rhythm. However, the Huskers have steadily improved each week, riding a wave of confidence developed in the first half of the Notre Dame game.

With a relatively inexperienced offensive line starting to develop confidence and first-year starter Dahrran Diedrick carrying a big part of the rushing load from his I-back position, quarterback Eric Crouch has gotten back in the groove. His breakout performance in a 48-3 win over Rice — three touchdowns passing and two TDs rushing — gave his lagging Heisman Trophy campaign a much-needed shot in the arm.

"It was a sense of relief," said Crouch, who has become the Big 12's all-time rushing leader at the quarterback position. "I feel like I'm back on track offensively and doing some of the things I'm used to doing as far as being a leader and kind of taking over the offense."

So far, Crouch has shown that he can hurt opponents with more than just his legs. Claiming that his surgically repaired right shoulder feels better than it has felt since he arrived at Nebraska, Crouch has completed a high percentage of his passes as the Huskers have flashed big-play capability through the air.

"I know that this offense has the talent to be a big-play team," Crouch said. "Really, the thing about it is, we just emphasize getting better each week. Everybody seems to be on the same page. Generally, when that's the truth, then you come out and have a great game."

Solich said that the emergence of the passing game gives the Huskers more versatility on offense. He now has more weapons to choose from, and he's not afraid to use them.

"Whatever it takes to put points on the board," Solich said. "I don't care if that comes from 400 yards rushing and 65 yards passing or if it's split evenly or how it's split. It makes no difference to me."

Solich knows that the true tests of Nebraska's improvement await. Home games against Oklahoma and Kansas State and a road trip to Colorado will likely decide just how successful this season will be. However, if the Huskers continue to improve at their current rate, Solich said they should be able to compete with anyone.

"I believe this team will react well, and I believe it will play well," Solich said. "We've just got to keep working and keep trying to improve each week and see where that takes us." ■



**Coach Frank Solich
said he likes the make-
up of his fourth team.**

Fond Memories

Nebraska graduate assistant enjoyed his time in Ames



Curt McKEEVER

THE THINGS a father will do . . .

Yeah, Jimmy Burrow decided to accept a graduate assistant position at Nebraska because he's thinking he could get back into the major college coaching business again.

But the real benefit the 47-year-old former Cornhusker standout receives from returning to his old stomping grounds is the priceless time shared with his two oldest sons — senior middle linebacker Jamie and redshirt freshman free safety Dan.

This week, as Nebraska gears up for Iowa State, the Burrows ought to have plenty of stories to share.

You see, until Jamie left for NU in 1997, and Dan followed last year, home for all of them was Ames, Iowa.

Jamie can still recall how in 1992 he was forbidden to watch Iowa State's upset of seventh-ranked Nebraska from the Cyclones' sideline because "dad didn't want me to get in any trouble on his sideline."

Two years later, Jimmy Burrow was coaching his final game from Jack Trice Stadium as ISU's defensive coordinator in a hard-fought loss to NU. Faced with having to find a new job when Iowa State decided to cut ties with Jim Walden after seven seasons, Burrow, a single father without primary custody of his kids, would have been a good candidate for other Division I assistant jobs.

Instead, he opted to remain in Ames to be near his boys.

"Yeah, I think I could've gotten another job, but I would have had to been prepared to go wherever, and who knows where that would've been," Burrow said. "Whether it would've been at the same level that I was or not, I guess I'll never know, because I chose not to do that."

"Oklahoma State called me once, and I probably didn't express enough interest to go much further than the fact that they called me. Under normal circumstances, that would've been some place that I would've pursued. But I wasn't prepared to leave Ames at that time."

If you've ever been to that north central Iowa community, you might wonder what Burrow was thinking. The joke among Big 12 North schools is if it's 50 or 60 degrees in your town on a fall or winter day, chances are it's snowing in Ames. Only sometimes, that's really not a joke.

Having had to recruit to the Cyclones' home, Burrow has heard all those one-liners. But even now, he speaks fondly of his years there.

"It's a great place to live," Burrow said. "It was a great place to raise a family. Even the years I coached at Iowa State were fun years. They were good years, it's just that we didn't win enough games."

Burrow came to Ames in 1987 after spending six seasons helping Walden revive Washington State's program as the Cougars' defensive backs coach.

The Amory, Miss., product started his Nebraska roots when he transferred to NU after playing freshman ball at the University of Mississippi. At Nebraska, Burrow became a two-year starter in the secondary and was named second

team All-Big Eight as a senior. Although he tipped the scales at less than 170 pounds, he still was drafted by Green Bay (in the eighth round) and ended up playing six years of pro ball (five in the Canadian Football League).

By the time he ended up at Iowa State, Burrow's boys were 5 and 8, respectively. And with the Cyclones making steady progress under Walden — they went 6-5 in his third season — Burrow was staring at a long stay in Ames.

That happened, although not exactly the way he planned. Iowa State lost a key player to academics the next year and slipped under .500. Three seasons after that, ISU went 0-10-1 and Burrow was weighing his professional options. With one year's salary to rely on, he chose to stick around Ames, and got involved as a volunteer coach at Ames High.

The Iowa Barnstormers in Des Moines also started playing in the Arena Football League that year, and Burrow landed as defensive backs coach and special teams coordinator.

Additionally, he worked a sales job that indirectly kept him rooting for the Cyclones.

When Jamie took an unofficial recruiting visit to a program he knew better than any other, his dad came along for the tour.

After Jamie left for Nebraska, Burrow became Ames High's head coach.

Dan would eventually follow his brother to NU, and when the Barnstormers were sold and moved to New York, Burrow pondered his future.

While in San Antonio for Nebraska's Alamo Bowl trip last December, Burrow was asked by NU defensive line coach Jeff Jamrog if he would ever consider getting back into Division I coaching.

"I said, yeah, but I'm not so sure I wouldn't just rather go to a so-called big-name program like Nebraska to be a graduate assistant, because I wasn't willing to still just go anywhere and take

any job," he said. "When that job opened up, I said I'd certainly be willing to talk about it. That's really how that came about."

Now, Burrow — who already has a master's degree in education administration — is back in school part-time and taking his new path with an open mind.

He could stay on as a grad assistant for up to three years but also could have a full-time coaching position come his way after this season.

"My wife has a good job that she's able to work out of the house," said Burrow, who has another Husker fan in the family in 4-year-old son Joey.

"The plan is to evaluate what's going on after a year, and if I think the opportunity somewhere is there, at a similar level that I was, then I would be willing to do that because that's why I got back in."

Not that he minds sacrificing his career a bit longer. After all, how many graduate assistants can say they get to interact with their college-age sons every day? ■



Jimmy Burrow was an assistant at Iowa State from 1987-1994.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.

A Quick Study

**Defensive back
from Colorado
makes impact as
true freshman**

Philip Bland sprinted down the field on the kickoff to open this football season. And he would have been involved in making the tackle if he hadn't been blocked from behind.

Instead, he was knocked down, spread-eagled in a manner reminiscent of Superman in flight. He was sent "Supermaning" is how he described it. In conventional terminology, he was clipped.

"That's my side of the story," he said with a laugh. And he's sticking to it.

Whether or not he was clipped, that play was the beginning of an improbable story involving one of four true freshmen playing for Nebraska this season. The others are middle linebacker Barrett Ruud, quarterback-turned-wide receiver Mike Stuntz and nose tackle Manaia Brown.

Bland, a rover, might be the least likely member of that elite foursome, not for lack of ability but rather because of the fact he accepted a scholarship from Nebraska in the first place.

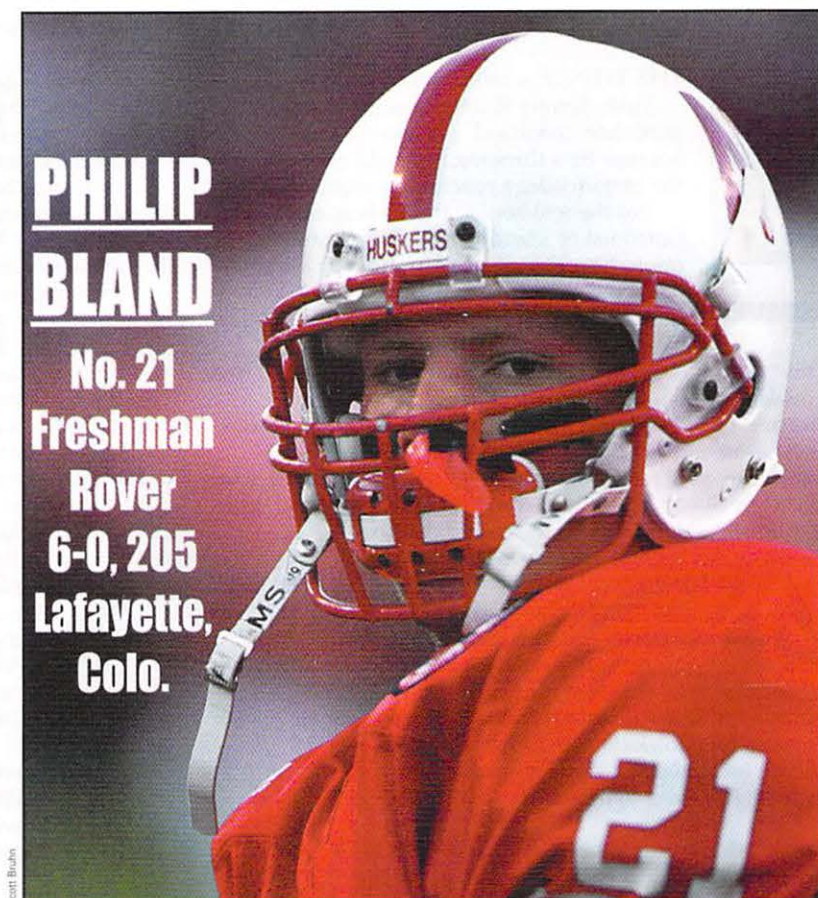
His background would seem to argue against being a Cornhusker. His dad, Rich, played for Colorado, earning letters in 1971, 1972 and 1973. And the family lives in Lafayette, Colo.

He grew up a Buffaloes fan — his family had season football tickets — and he went to Boulder's Fairview High School, where the head football coach is Tom McCartney, the son of former Colorado Coach Bill McCartney. Bland's position coach, Tony Rettig, also played at Colorado.

Rettig, a strong safety for McCartney's Buffaloes in the early 1980s, "pretty much made me what I was through high school, definitely," said Bland. "He gets a ton of credit.

**PHILIP
BLAND**

**No. 21
Freshman
Rover
6-0, 205
Lafayette,
Colo.**



"I had never played defensive back before my sophomore year."

Obviously Bland, whose father was a starting safety his senior season at Colorado, has been a quick study. On letter-of-intent signing day in February, Coach Frank Solich compared his aggressive play to that of former Cornhusker rover Mike Brown, who is second on Nebraska's career-tackles list.

Brown played as a true freshman in 1996. He was a "good reserve" at cornerback, defensive backs Coach George Darlington said, adding that Bland is "kind of in that boat."

However, "quite frankly, the way we're sitting right now, Philip's going to play more than Mike Brown did (as a true freshman)," said Darlington. "Time will tell. He's playing well. He has played with a lot of poise and confidence, to the point you forget he's

only a freshman."

Bland was in Lincoln during the summer preparing for his first season, and there was speculation even then that he was among those with the best chance of playing without redshirting.

As it turned out, he wasn't kept with the varsity just to play on special teams, though he has done that, too. He played on scrimmage downs in the first half of the opener against Texas Christian, and he was moved to the top of the depth chart at rover prior to the Rice game.

That promotion was in part a result of the fact that sophomore free safety Willie Amos was hampered by a hamstring injury, requiring senior Dion Booker to focus on that position.

Darlington considers Booker No. 1 at both rover and free safety.

Bland learned of his promotion during a phone conversation with a

family acquaintance, while he was at home for a weekend visit following the Notre Dame game. Solich gave the team time off from practice in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

"Phil, what's it feel like?" the acquaintance wanted to know.

"What, to be home?" Bland replied, not understanding the question.

"I'm like, 'It feels pretty good (to be home). My parents are here,'" Bland said, not really knowing what to say. "He's like, 'No, you're at the top of the depth chart.' And I was like, 'Oh.'"

Bland was surprised, but not as much as he might have been. "I thought it was quite possibly going to happen just because Willie (Amos) was down," he told reporters the next week.

"I think that's why this went about, right? If I had to bet, that's what I'd bet on."

Bland has managed to maintain perspective, despite his immediate success. "I guess, yes, I am surprised that I'm moving up there pretty fast," he said. "The thing is, I live by taking things one day at a time, not looking

back if something went wrong and not looking too far ahead."

For the most part, he's been able to set things aside — like the alleged clip on the opening kickoff in the TCU game and a near interception early in the fourth quarter.

On second-and-10 from the TCU 38-yard line, Horned Frogs quarterback Casey Printers broke containment and threw a pass in the flat, near the west sideline.

Bland dropped in zone coverage, "what we call a 'light drop,'" he said. "I was looking back, trying to find the receiver the quarterback was eyeing. As soon as I looked back, the ball was there."

He reached up and the ball went through his hands. "You should always catch a ball if you get both hands on it," he said. "It just came quicker than I thought it was coming."

Videotape shows he had room to run. "If you notice, when I go up for it, I'm moving toward out-of-bounds," he said. "But had I held onto it, who knows what would have happened."

"This is my story and I'm sticking to it." ■

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Situational

Nebraska coins new names to describe its special packages

By Mike Babcock

"Penny," "nickel," "dime," Nebraska's

defense is running out of coin names.

"We are in a situation where we're going to have to be creative with some terms," Cornhusker defensive backs coach George Darlington said recently.

Actually, the creativity has already begun. In addition to "penny," "nickel," "dime" and "quarter," Nebraska uses "slug" to designate one of its many defensive combinations.

"We were just running out of coins and we thought about the old pinball machine days, when people would put a slug in the machine," Darlington said. "It's probably illegal."

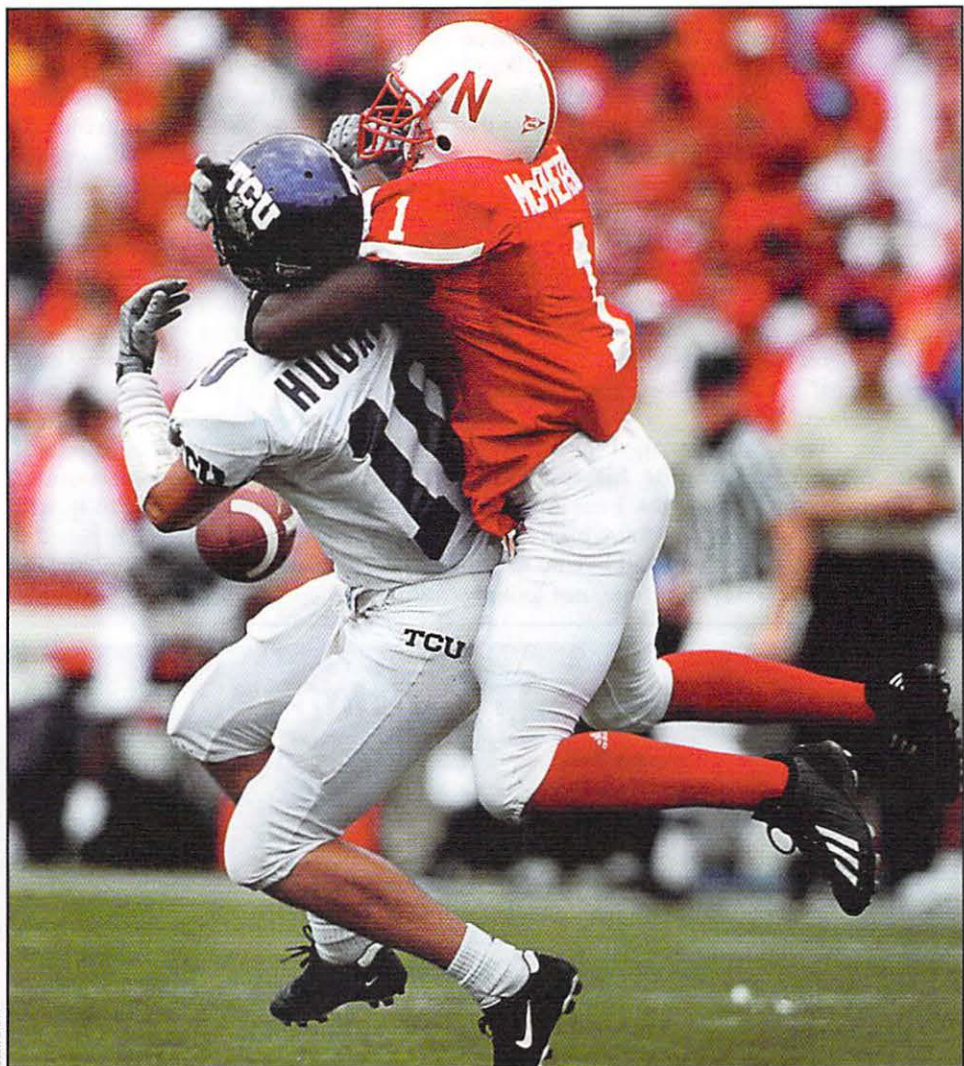
He was joking, of course. Putting a slug in a pinball machine might be against the law, but the Cornhuskers' "slug" combination is legal, involving only 11 players.

How those 11 players are deployed, particularly in the secondary, is the key.

Because of an increasing emphasis on defensive match-ups the last four or five seasons, traditional position names, specifically in the secondary, are being replaced by the coin names.

Although the depth chart still lists two cornerbacks, a free safety and a rover, those designations become almost meaningless as alignments are increasingly predicated on personnel.

The fact is, "personnel groupings are probably having more of an



Depending on the match-ups, Nebraska might start a game with "nickel" back Lornell McPherson (above) on the field in place of strongside linebacker Scott Shanle (right).

impact (on alignments) than down-and-distance," said defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Craig Bohl.

"People used to look at hash marks and down-and-distance to make defensive calls. Now you're seeing offensive formations being much more multiple, and they're (offenses) doing different things out of those formations — and beyond that, the personnel groupings within those formations.

"So what you're looking at are

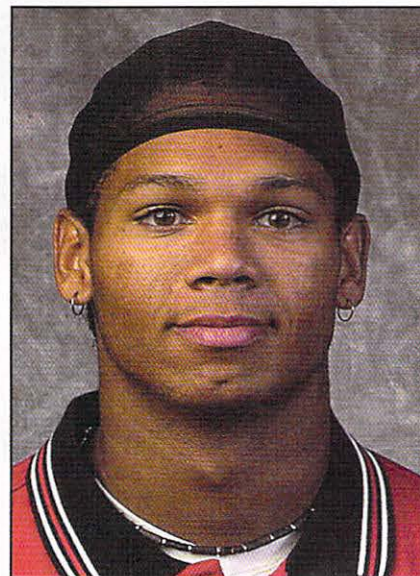
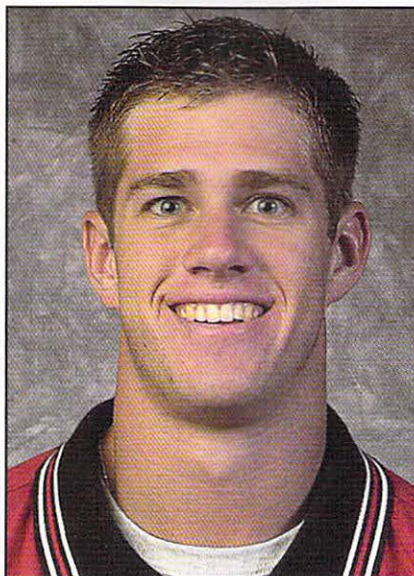
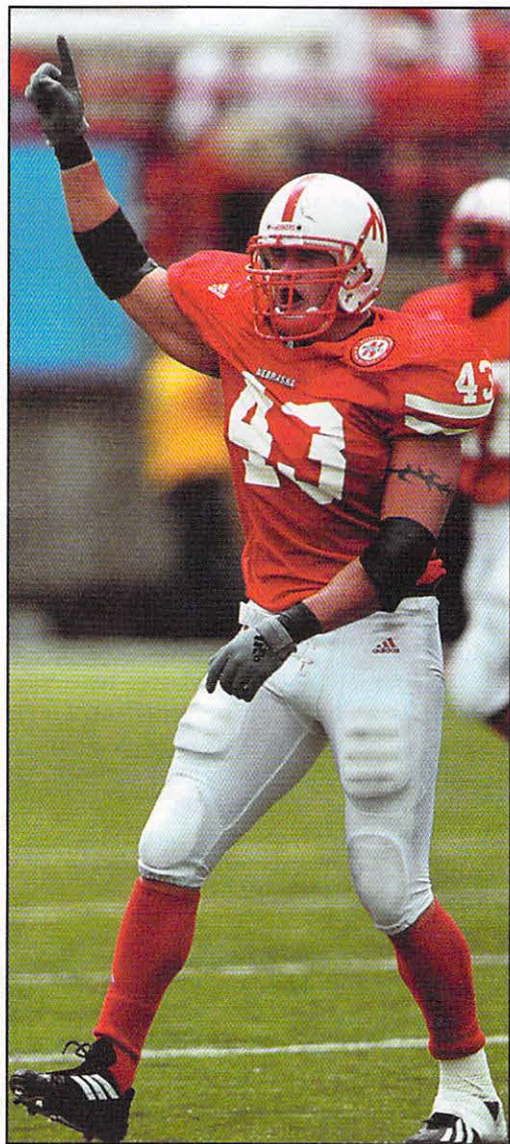
match-ups. There's a constant chess game going on."

That's why in the first two games this season, for example, Scott Shanle wasn't on the field for the defense's first play from scrimmage even though he's the starting strongside linebacker.

Because of the opposing personnel the Cornhuskers expected to see on first down in those games, Lornell McPherson, the starting "nickel" back, was substituted for Shanle.

McPherson did not start the Notre

Defensive



Pat Ricketts (left) can be a "penny," substituting for the rover, while Lannie Hopkins can have "dime" responsibilities, subbing for the weakside linebacker.

Dame game, however, Shanle did.

Nebraska plays so much man-to-man coverage "that to get a linebacker — a traditional, strong, run-support player with good speed — all of a sudden matched with a 4.5 water-bug (receiver) is a mismatch," Darlington said. "What we want to do is match up speed against speed, size against size."

NFL defenses have been using that approach for several years. Now colleges are following suit, and taking the concept even further. In NFL ter-

minology, "nickel" designates five defensive backs, "dime" designates six defensive backs and "quarter" designates seven defensive backs.

A "quarter" would mean all three linebackers have been replaced with defensive backs.

That's not exactly the way Nebraska uses those terms, however. "Penny," "nickel" and "dime" refer to particular players while "quarter," "slug" and "dollar" refer to combinations of those players.

Pat Ricketts can be a "penny," for example, which means replacing the rover, while Lannie Hopkins can have "dime" responsibilities, stepping in for the weakside linebacker.

Officially, Ricketts, like McPherson, is listed as a cornerback, Hopkins as a rover.

At times, "it's a little confusing," said freshman rover Philip Bland.

Defensive line coach Jeff Jamrog agrees. "We've got so much terminology . . . we have a whole lot of different types of combinations," he said. "I think we need about every coin there is."

Keeping the terminology straight is less of a concern for him, however.

"All I care about is getting the horses up front in position," he said.

The combinations are supposed to be confusing for offenses, of course. If they aren't, a defensive scheme might be revealed by identifying which players were on the field at a particular time.

"We have a little bit of a problem with that right now," said Darlington.

Situational substitutions require the rapid processing of information and instantaneous communication between coaches in the pressbox and those on the sideline. "You're looking at down-and-distance. You're looking at field position. You're looking at the offensive grouping. You're looking at tendencies. And you're looking at finding your best match-ups given their personnel," Bohl said.

"The game has come to the point where the huddle is not as big of a deal anymore. You'll see people go with no huddle (offensively), and as a result, defenses are going with no huddles."

Offensive alignments are as diverse as permutations of four backs and two ends allow.

"What you're seeing are offenses

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trying to gain an edge on defenses and defenses doing things to make sure they stay on pace so they don't get out-personneled," said Bohl.

On occasion, substitutions aren't made for whatever reason, and a 175-pound nickel back can find himself matched against a 250-pound tight end. Though such a mismatch can leave the defense vulnerable, "down-and-distance is in your favor," Darlington said. "Yes, he's a liability against the power running game, but down-and-distance says they aren't going to run the power game."

Likewise, an outside linebacker such as Shanle can get caught on the field with the possibility of having to cover a wide receiver instead of a tight end. "Then we try to alert the safety to the fact that, hey, we've got a mismatch," said Darlington. "So even though the coverage calls for a specific place for the safety to drop, he knows, 'I've got an alert situation. I've got a potential mismatch.'"

Shanle has very good speed for his position and can cover receivers. "But he's maybe in a situation where he's going to be stressed," Darlington said. "So the safety makes sure he helps."

The situational approach to defense is a recent phenomenon at the collegiate level. When he was a Cornhusker defensive back in the late 1970s, "we had 11 guys and they played," Bohl said.

The same was true when Jamrog played defensive end in the mid-1980s.

"We didn't get a whole lot of spread offenses," he said.

Nebraska played more zone coverage in the secondary, too. And if zone coverage still predominated, "we would probably not get as involved with so many substitutions," said Darlington.

Situational substitution involves more players, he said, "which means they go into the game with the anticipation, 'Hey, I have as good of a chance of being on the field as the starter.'"

That's definitely a positive. On the other side of the coin, however, is, well, the need for more coin terminology to designate the different combinations.

"We're going to have to start using foreign (coin) names," Darlington said. ■

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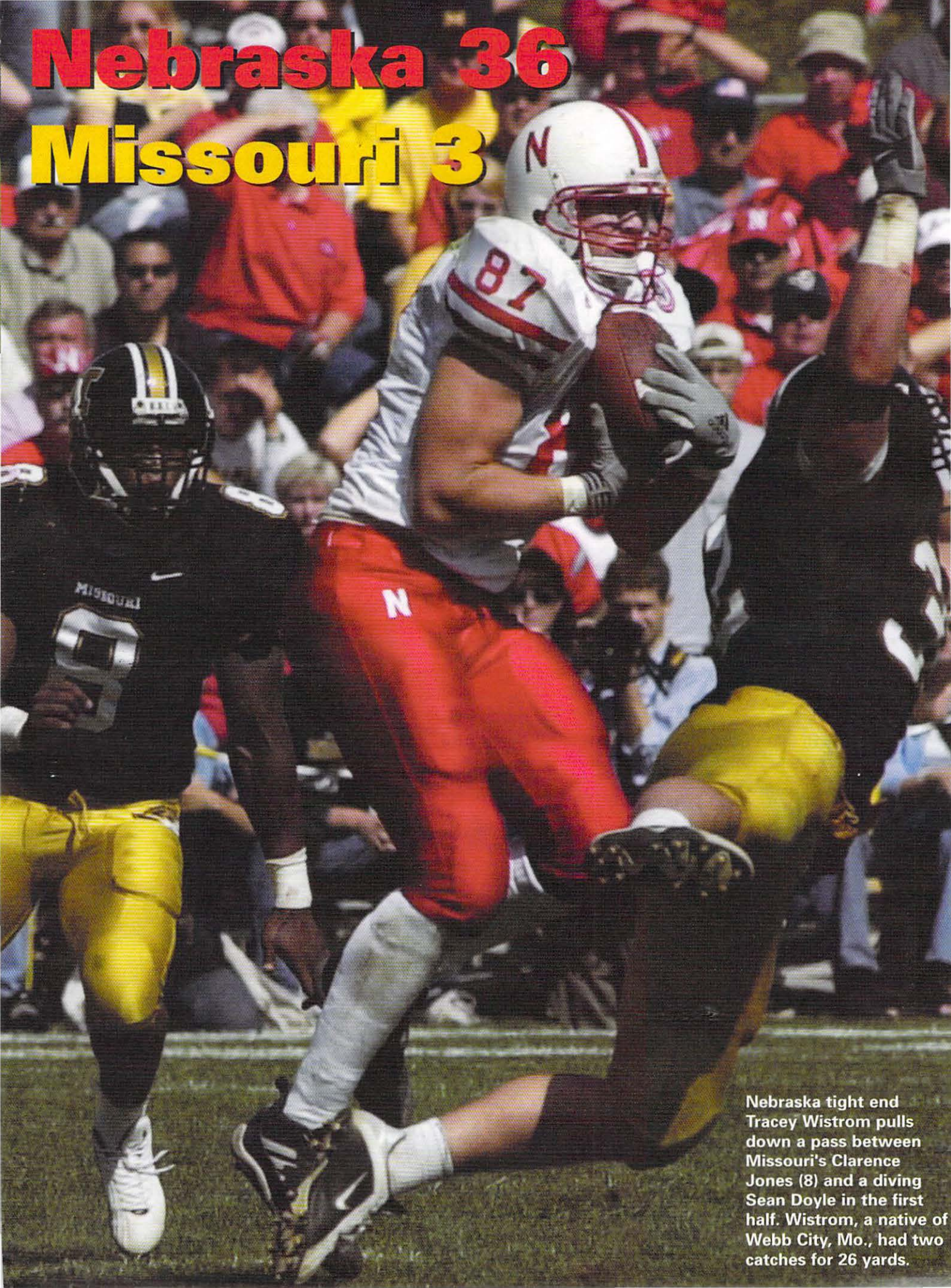
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Nebraska 36

Missouri 3



Nebraska tight end Tracey Wistrom pulls down a pass between Missouri's Clarence Jones (8) and a diving Sean Doyle in the first half. Wistrom, a native of Webb City, Mo., had two catches for 26 yards.

Husker Player of the Game



Eric Crouch

Interception Lone Blemish

Eric Crouch wasn't certain that his performance against Missouri was the best of his career. "I didn't really feel like I played a perfect game," he said. "There were some mistakes."

The only apparent mistake was a first-quarter interception, the lone blemish in his statistics, which included 8-of-14 for 120 yards passing and 191 yards and two touchdowns rushing.

Crouch said he might have been "impatient in the passing game."

Even so, he was again the key figure in an offense that gained 532 yards.

"He was just marvelous," Coach Frank Solich said, relying on a new word to describe the play of his senior quarterback. "Today was one of his best performances. You get used to that with Eric. He has given us those kind of plays throughout his time here at Nebraska."

Missouri Coach Gary Pinkel's praise of Crouch was more succinct.

"He's an absolutely phenomenal player," said Pinkel. "He's a playmaker."

He's also team-oriented. Even though his record-breaking 95-yard touchdown run was the result of individual effort, he credited his teammates. "All week long we've been talking about an offense of getting a big play, breaking a big run," he said. "We got the job done even though it was a broken play." ■

'A Lot

95-yard run is Crouch's signature play

By Mike Babcock

Photos by
L.G. Patterson

The great ones have signature plays, and Eric Crouch made his late in the third quarter of Nebraska's 36-3 victory at Missouri — until further notice, that is. His career isn't finished just yet.

For the time being, however, his 95-yard touchdown run will stand as the one folks remember, as they remember Johnny Rodgers' punt return against Oklahoma in 1971, or Tommie Frazier's touchdown run against Florida in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl game, or Mike Rozier's run against UCLA in 1982.

Like those other plays, Crouch made something out of nothing, turning what might have been a sack and safety into six points, as slick as you please. "He's a creator," said teammate DeJuan Groce.

"I enjoy watching him do it. He's an amazing athlete."

Those in the crowd of 64,204, liberally splashed in red, left Faurot Field in agreement about Crouch's athleticism. But only those in red could have enjoyed watching the evidence.

The situation was this. Nebraska faced third-down-and-8 at its own 5-yard line, holding a comfortable but somewhat lackluster 16-3 lead. Crouch called a pass play, a short "out route," designed to go to the left, where tight end Tracey Wistrom and split end Wilson Thomas lined up.

The play quickly broke down, however. "I felt a little pressure backside, so I stepped up in the pocket," Crouch said. "I didn't want to make



Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch breaks the tackle of Missouri defensive back Gary Anthony on his record-breaking 95-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

any mistakes near our end zone."

He slipped through a would-be tackle by Missouri defensive end Nick Tarpoff, and at some point in the sequence, "saw a lot of green," he said. "So I took the opportunity to run the ball."

"I was trying to get as many yards

of Green'



as I could, trying to get to the end zone."

Those goals were one in the same, of course, and after breaking a couple of tackles, he found himself in the open, sprinting north toward the same end zone in which Matt Davison made his miraculous catch of Scott Frost's

pass against the Tigers in 1997, another of the aforementioned signature plays.

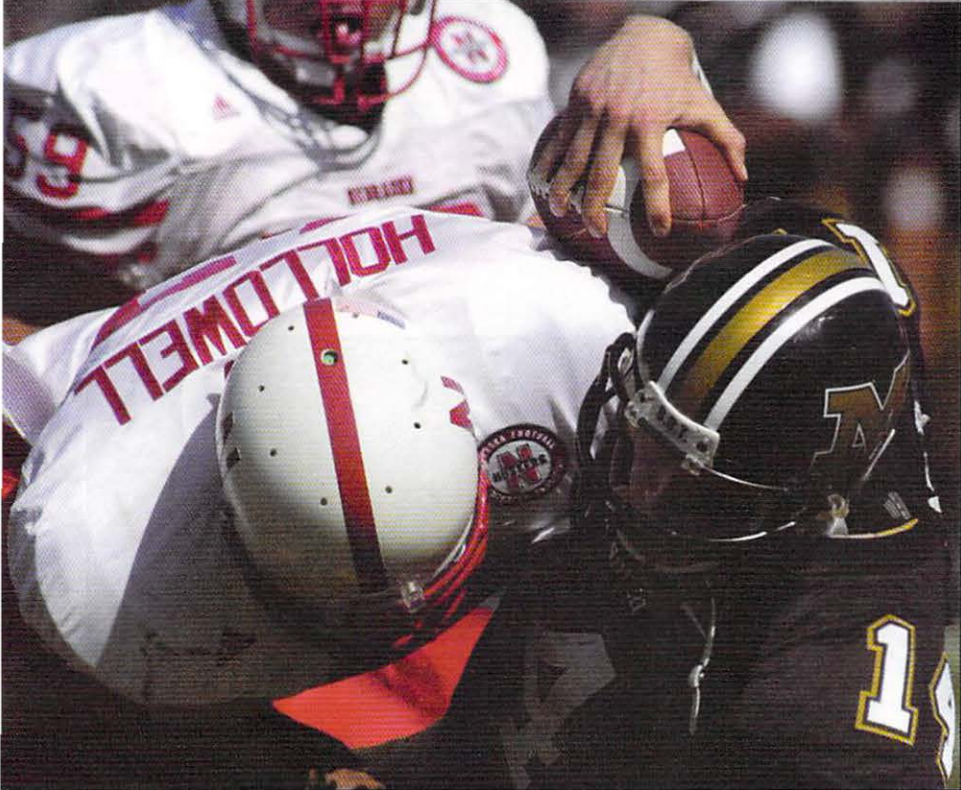
By the end of the run, Crouch's closest pursuer was Thomas, his teammate.

"It was unbelievable," said offensive tackle Dave Volk, who was busy

blocking and couldn't see what was happening. "I heard cheering and didn't know if it was for us or for them.

"I saw him run into a crowd of people and then I saw him run out of the crowd."

Initially, "I was just happy we got the first down," Volk said.



The Nebraska defense put up another strong effort, limiting Missouri to 205 total yards. Linebacker T.J. Hollowell (above) slams Missouri quarterback Kirk Farmer to the turf for a sack in the second half. Offensively, split end Wilson Thomas contributed a key play, when he out-leaped Missouri's Antoine Duncan (right) to pull in a 37-yard pass that set up the Huskers' second touchdown, just before halftime.

Although the length of the play made it remarkable, it was typical of Crouch in another sense. Nebraska converted 12 third-down situations — out of 20 — into first downs, and he was also personally responsible for eight of the other conversions, either by passing or running.

The Cornhuskers' first touchdown drive early in the second quarter included three third-down conversions, for example, all by Crouch. He passed to fullback Judd Davies for 11 yards on third-and-9. He ran for 11 yards on third-and-4. And he ran for 19 yards on third-and-7.

He also fashioned a first down out of a third-and-6 as Nebraska struck for a touchdown just before halftime, completing a pass to Wistrom for a 10-yard gain. On the next play, he connected with Thomas for 37 yards to the Missouri 4-yard line, setting up I-back Dahrran's Diedrick's second score.

The well-covered Thomas "just went up and took the ball away," Coach Frank Solich said.

As it turned out, Diedrick's first touchdown was all the Cornhuskers really needed to win their Big 12 opener, thanks to another staunch defensive effort. Nebraska's defense has not allowed a touchdown since early in the fourth quarter of the Notre Dame game — eight consecutive quarters.

Missouri managed only 205 total yards, 108 of them coming in a first

quarter marked by Cornhusker mistakes: a blocked field goal, a lost fumble and a pass interception.

"Turnovers are always going to hurt you," said Solich.

Missouri converted the opportunities into just a field goal, however. And by the middle of the second quarter, the Blackshirts had established some semblance of control.

"As the game went on, I thought our defense played better and better," Solich said.

Whatever hope Missouri might still have harbored evaporated into the clear blue sky of a pleasant September afternoon with Crouch's touchdown run, the longest in Cornhusker history. Craig Johnson (1979, Kansas) and Roger Craig (1981, Florida State) shared the record at 94 yards.

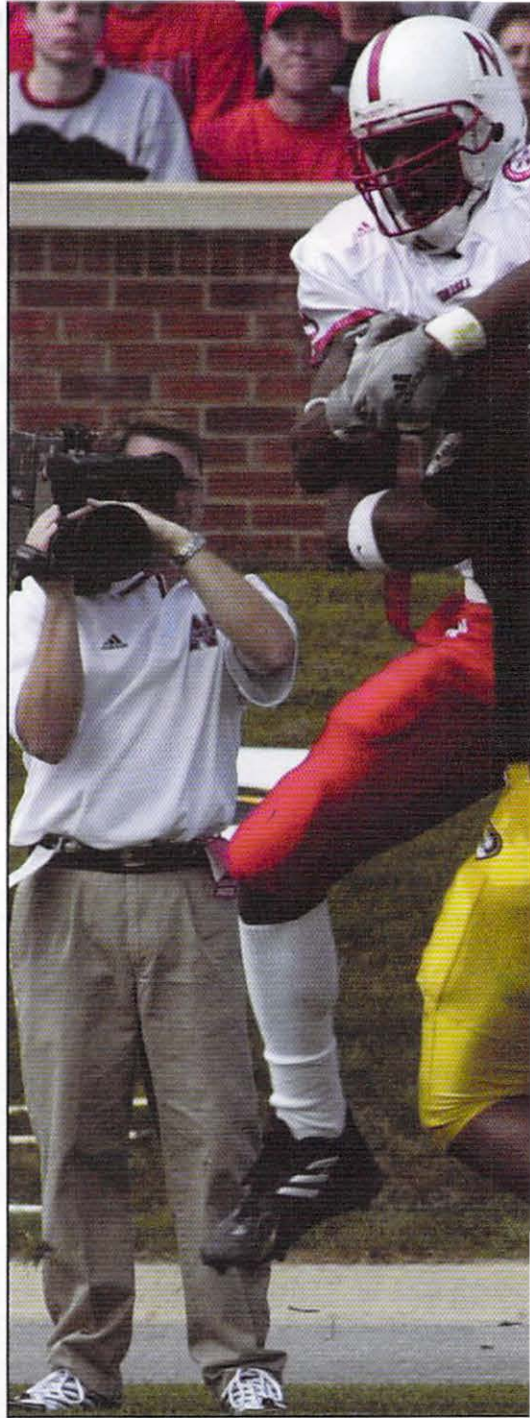
"It could have been a knife-in-the-heart type of thing," said Crouch, who also broke the Nebraska single-game, regular-season, rushing record for quarterbacks with 191 yards on 17 carries.

He had a career-high 311 total-offense yards, the fourth-best in school history.

Quarterback Jerry Tagge accounted for 319 yards, against Missouri, in 1971.

Like everyone else, Solich is struggling to find superlatives to describe Crouch.

"We wouldn't trade him for anyone in the country in terms of making



plays and getting us out of jams," Solich said.

"He's so quick. He's so elusive. He's got great speed. When he's got a crease, he's the guy you want to have the ball in his hands. He's got great acceleration."

He also has the toughness to break tackles. And the 95-yard run reflected all of those qualities.

"I thought, 'Well, he's got 10 yards. He's got 20 yards,'" Solich said, adding that once he got a step on the defenders, "it was obvious he wasn't going to get caught from behind."

Early in the fourth quarter, Crouch ran 15 yards for a touchdown, making a textbook decision to keep and break to the outside on an option. But that touchdown run paled by comparison



to his first.

"He never ceases to amaze me. He makes people look silly in the open field," said Wistrom. "I was on a (pass) route, started hearing a roar and turned around to see what was happening."

What was happening, as Wistrom would learn, was a play that will be recounted for years and years to come, like Bobby Reynolds' remarkable touchdown run against Missouri in 1950.

When you've been around Crouch long enough, "you don't get many surprises," Wistrom said. "He's capable of about anything out there."

Volk agreed with Wistrom in principle.

"But that surprised me," he said. ■

4TH & 1 NCHES

Notes And Quotes From The Missouri Game

QUARTER'S WORTH

With the help of some Nebraska miscues, Missouri held a 3-0 lead going into the second quarter. The Tigers gained 108 yards in the first quarter and picked up seven first downs.

Any optimism those numbers might have produced, however, quickly faded.

"We just really got out-played today," said Tiger offensive lineman Justin Bland. "We had a good game plan going in; everybody was really excited. We just got out-played. Nebraska doesn't do anything special. They play a base defense. We prepared for that, but things just didn't go our way."

Missouri managed only 97 total yards and six first downs through the final three quarters.

"We struggled on offense today because of the team we played," Gary Pinkel, the Tigers' first-year head coach, said. "They have as good of a defense as there is in the country."

"Our inability to execute — throw, catch, block, run — is why we lost."

BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

Cornhusker cornerback DeJuan Groce had a busy day, breaking up four passes and returning seven punts for 145 yards. Four of those seven punt returns were longer than his previous longest, a 20-yarder against Rice. He had returns of 26, 24, 21 and 24 yards against Missouri.

Groce and Keyuo Craver, Nebraska's other starting cornerback, "are playing just outstanding football," said Cornhusker defensive coordinator Craig Bohl.

Strongside linebacker Scott Shanle led Nebraska with eight tackles and broke up three passes.

"I think this defense is a lot more aggressive than last year," Craver said. "We're more determined than last year. As long as the defense does its part, we know the offense will take care of theirs."

The defense limited Missouri to 67 yards rushing, a total boosted significantly by a 29-yard run by Zack Abron. The Cornhuskers have held four of five opponents to fewer than 70 yards rushing.

In contrast, Nebraska rushed for a season-high 412 yards.

Tackle Dave Volk said the offensive line played "pretty good. I think it was good the guys kept their poise and stayed patient," he said.

BROWN REBOUNDS

Junior Josh Brown apparently regained his position as the No. 1 place-kicker.

After redshirted freshman Sandro DeAngelis had a field goal blocked and an extra-point kick fail, following a penalty, Brown came on kick a 38-yard field goal and two extra points.

Brown also handled kickoffs, as planned going into the game.

TOO POOPED TO PASS

After his 95-yard touchdown run, Crouch attempted a two-point conversion pass to tight end Tracey Wistrom. The pass fell incomplete. "I was a little tired for that throw," Crouch said.

RECORD IS WISTROM'S

Wistrom broke the Nebraska career record for receiving yards by a tight end with his 10-yard reception on the Cornhuskers' second scoring drive. The senior from Webb City, Mo., also caught a 16-yard pass. He now has 53 career receptions for 1,065 yards.

Junior Miller (1977-79) held the previous record for receiving yards by a tight end, 1,045. Wistrom is tied for third among tight ends in career receptions, with Jim McFarland (1968-69).

Jerry List (1970-72) tops the list with 61 catches. Miller is second with 55.

FRAZIER HAS IT

Crouch's 191 rushing yards were the most-ever by a Cornhusker quarterback during a regular-season game. The previous record belonged to Gerry Gdowski, who rushed for 174 yards against Iowa State in 1989. Tommie Frazier holds the overall record, rushing for 199 yards in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl.

Crouch moved past Frazier into third place all-time in passing yards at Nebraska, with 3,604.

DIDN'T TRAVEL

Sophomore free safety Willie Amos and redshirted freshman rover Lannie Hopkins weren't included on the travel roster to Missouri. Amos is suffering from a pulled hamstring, while Hopkins is slowed by an abdominal muscle strain. ■

2001 Schedule

(Team's current record)

1	Aug. 25	TCU (3-2), W 21-7
2	Sept. 1	Troy State (1-2), W 42-14
3	Sept. 8	Notre Dame (0-3), W 27-10
4	Sept. 20	Rice (3-1), W 48-3
5	Sept. 29	@ Missouri (1-2), W 36-3
6	Oct. 6	Iowa State (3-0), 6 p.m., Fox Sports Net
7	Oct. 13	@ Baylor (2-1), 1 p.m.
8	Oct. 20	Texas Tech (2-1), Homecoming, TBA
9	Oct. 27	Oklahoma (4-0), TBA
10	Nov. 3	@ Kansas (1-2), TBA
11	Nov. 10	Kansas State (2-1), TBA
12	Nov. 23	@ Colorado (3-1), 2:30 p.m., ABC
	Dec. 1	Big 12 Championship at Irving, Texas, 7 p.m., ABC

Big 12 at a Glance

North			
	Conf.	All	
Nebraska	1 0	5 0	
Iowa State	1 0	3 0	
Colorado	1 0	3 1	
Kansas State	0 1	2 1	
Kansas	0 1	1 2	
Missouri	0 1	1 2	
South			
	Conf.	All	
Oklahoma	1 0	4 0	
Texas	1 0	4 0	
Texas A&M	1 0	4 0	
Texas Tech	0 1	2 1	
Baylor	0 1	2 1	
Oklahoma State	0 1	2 2	

Sept. 29 results

Nebraska 36, Missouri 3
Oklahoma 38, Kansas State 37
Iowa State 41, Baylor 0
Texas 42, Texas Tech 7
Oklahoma St. 24, Northwestern St. 0
Texas A&M 24, Notre Dame 3
Colorado, Kansas idle

Other nonconference opponents

TCU 34, Houston 17
Rice 27, Hawaii 24
Troy State idle

Upcoming Opponents' Schedules

Iowa State (3-0)	
Sept. 8	Northern Iowa, W 45-0
Sept. 22	at Ohio, W 31-28
Sept. 29	Baylor, W 41-0
Oct. 6	at Nebraska
Oct. 13	at Missouri
Oct. 20	Oklahoma State
Oct. 27	at Texas A&M
Nov. 3	Kansas State
Nov. 10	Colorado
Nov. 17	at Kansas
Nov. 24	Iowa

Baylor (2-1)

Sept. 8	Arkansas State, W 24-3
Sept. 22	New Mexico, W 16-13
Sept. 29	at Iowa State, L 41-0
Oct. 6	at Texas A&M
Oct. 13	Nebraska
Oct. 20	at Oklahoma
Oct. 27	Texas Tech
Nov. 3	Texas
Nov. 10	at Missouri
Nov. 17	Oklahoma State
Nov. 24	Southern Illinois

Game 6

Iowa State
Oct. 6

Location: Ames, Iowa

Enrollment: 26,845

2001 record: 3-0

Coach: Dan McCarney,

7th year

Series: Nebraska leads 78-15-2



6 p.m. (Fox Sports Net)
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln

Cyclone to Watch

Junior quarterback Seneca Wallace is coming off a record-setting performance in the Cyclones' 41-0 victory over Baylor. The transfer from Sacramento (Calif.) City



College, completed a Big 12-record 18 straight passes, including four for touchdowns. He finished 22 of 24 for 299 yards and added 58 yards rushing.

For the season, the 6-foot-1, 184-pounder has completed 42 of 63 passes for 596 yards and four touchdowns. He has rushed 21 times for 190 yards and three TDS.

Quick Facts

All-Big 12 tailback Ennis Haywood has rushed 71 times for 397 yards and four touchdowns in the first three games. Haywood, who led the conference in rushing as a junior with 1,237 yards, had just 71 in 18 carries against Baylor.

Iowa State has won six straight games for the first time since taking seven straight from Oct. 29, 1960, to Oct. 7, 1961. ISU has scored 30 or more points in each of the victories.

Former Nebraska quarterback Mike Grant is ISU's running backs coach. Grant coached the outside linebackers last season.

On Deck

At Baylor
Oct. 13

Location: Waco, Texas

Enrollment: 13,334

2001 record: 2-1

Coach: Kevin Steele, 3rd

year

Series: Nebraska leads 6-1

1 p.m.

Floyd Casey Stadium, Waco, Texas



Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

SE	9	Wilson Thomas**	6-6	215	Jr.
	81	Ben Cornelsen*	5-10	190	Jr.
LT	58	Dave Volk***	6-5	300	Sr.
	73	Scott Koethe*	6-5	310	Jr.
LG	77	Toni Fonoti**	6-4	340	Jr.
	74	Steve Altstadt*	6-5	295	Sr.
C	52	John Garrison**	6-4	285	Jr.
	53	Matt Shook*	6-2	300	Jr.
RG	86	Jon Rutherford***	6-3	300	Sr.
	59	Wes Cody*	6-2	295	Sr.
RT	68	Dan Waldrop*	6-5	330	So.
	66	Jon Rutherford***	6-3	300	Sr.
TE	87	Tracey Wistrom***	6-5	240	Sr.
	99	Aaron Golliday**	6-4	285	Jr.
QB	7	Eric Crouch***	6-1	200	Sr.
	10	Jammal Lord*	6-2	215	So.
FB	45	Judd Davies*	6-0	240	So.
	45	Steve Kriewald	5-10	255	Fr.
IB	30	Dahrran Diedrick**	6-0	225	Jr.
	1	Thunder Collins*	6-2	190	Jr.
WB	8	John Gibson***	6-0	195	Sr.
	89	Troy Hassebrook**	6-4	220	Jr.
PK	26	Josh Brown**	6-2	190	Jr.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LR	57	Chris Kelsay**	6-5	270	Jr.
	92	Justin Smith**	6-4	260	Jr.
NT	55	Jon Clanton**	6-2	280	Jr.
	59	Ryon Bingham	6-3	275	So.
DT	56	Jeremy Siechta***	6-6	285	Sr.
	85	Casey Nelson**	6-2	285	Sr.
RR	98	Demoiné Adams**	6-2	235	Jr.
	95	J.P. Wichmann**	6-4	230	Sr.
SLB	43	Scott Shanley**	6-2	235	Jr.
	47	Ira Cooper	6-2	220	Fr.
MLB	48	Jamie Burrow***	6-1	245	Sr.
	38	Barrett Ruud	6-2	220	Fr.
WLB	9	Mark Vedra***	6-1	210	Sr.
	17	T.J. Hollowell*	6-0	220	So.
LCB	3	Keyuo Craver**	5-10	190	Sr.
	28	Pat Ricketts*	5-11	180	So.
FS	14	Dion Booker***	6-1	205	Sr.
	31	Jerrell Pippens*	6-2	190	So.
ROV	21	Philip Bland	6-0	205	Fr.
	2	Aaron Terpening**	5-11	200	Jr.
RCB	5	DeJuan Groce**	5-10	190	Jr.
or	16	Erwin Swiney***	6-0	185	Sr.
P	19	Kyle Larson	6-0	205	So.

IOWA STATE OFFENSE

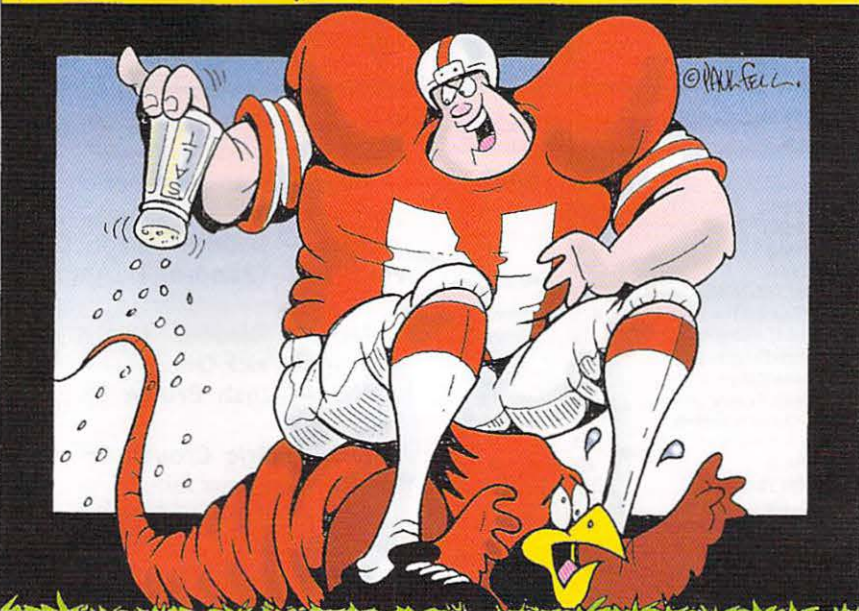
WR	82	Lane Danielson*	6-0	197	So.
	83	Jamaul Montgomery*	6-0	191	So.
LT	75	Marcel Howard***	6-6	320	Sr.
	60	Brent Nelson	6-3	270	Fr.
LG	65	Bob Montgomery*	6-3	310	So.
	77	Brian Donahue*	6-5	275	Sr.
C	68	Zach Butler*	6-4	290	Jr.
	55	Jared Bucksa*	6-3	276	Sr.
RG	76	Lorenzo White*	6-5	341	Sr.
	69	Luke Vander Sanden	6-2	290	Fr.
RT	67	Cory Hanner***	6-3	305	Sr.
	71	Casey Shelton	6-6	290	So.
TE	31	Mike Banks***	6-4	253	Sr.
	93	Kyle Knock**	6-2	260	Jr.
QB	15	Seneca Wallace	6-1	184	Jr.
	16	Cris Love	6-5	210	Fr.
TB	2	Ennis Haywood***	5-11	220	Sr.
	4	Michael Wagner*	5-7	188	So.
FB	45	Joe Woodley*	5-11	231	So.
	42	Frank Garcia	5-10	243	So.
WR	19	Craig Campbell**	5-11	181	Sr.
	5	Todd Miller	5-8	162	Fr.
K	14	Tony Yelk	6-0	201	Fr.

IOWA STATE DEFENSE

RE	1	Tyson Smith*	6-2	235	So.
	55	Beau Coleman	6-1	231	Jr.
DT	92	Jordan Carstens*	6-5	290	So.
	94	Kevin Hines	6-1	282	Jr.
NG	95	Willie Judd*	6-3	282	Sr.
	96	Paul Jarrett	6-4	285	Sr.
End	99	Kevin DeRonde***	6-5	251	Sr.
	91	Tim DeBrink	6-3	260	Fr.
OLB	41	Jeremy Loyd	6-2	230	Jr.
	5	Andrew Moser*	5-10	228	Sr.
MLB	7	Matt Word**	6-0	232	Jr.
	46	Boyd Viers	6-2	215	Fr.
WLB	44	Justin Eilers*	6-2	230	Sr.
	33	Brandon Brown	6-1	220	Fr.
LCB	10	Johnny Smith III*	5-11	164	So.
	16	Harold Clewis*	5-10	184	So.
FS	18	Marc Timmons*	5-10	160	So.
	17	Anthony Forrest	6-0	190	Fr.
SS	9	Adam Runk***	6-2	181	Sr.
	8	DeAndre Phillips*	5-9	196	So.
RCB	21	Atif Austin**	5-9	181	Jr.
	3	Bryan Ollie*	5-8	178	So.
P	14	Tony Yelk	6-0	201	Fr.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. IOWA STATE



OCT. 6, 2001
BLACKSHIRTS SIT ON 'CLONES AND NEVER
ALLOW IOWA STATE OFFENSE TO GET IN GEAR.

PICKS

IOWA STATE AT NEBRASKA

Brian Hill Editor

Iowa State comes in riding high at 3-0 and has won six straight dating back to last season. The Cyclones discovered a passing game against Baylor, and quarterback Seneca Wallace is the kind of athlete who sometimes gives Nebraska fits. That, combined with the running of Ennis Haywood, should keep things interesting... for a while. **Nebraska 51, Iowa State 20**

Mike Babcock Contributing Editor

Iowa State's success last season might have been a flash in the pan, even though Coach Dan McCarney has indicated that there were immediate positive effects on recruiting. The

Cyclones have some good running backs, headed by Ennis Haywood, and a quarterback with a great upside, Seneca Wallace. What they don't have are some key defensive players from a year ago. **Nebraska 45, Iowa State 10**

Terry Douglass Grand Island (Neb.) Independent Sports Editor

As Nebraska continues its march through the Big 12 Conference, the Cornhuskers should remember that Iowa State gave them all they wanted for three quarters last year at Ames. However, the Cyclones' rebuilt defense should be over-matched as Crouch and Co. continue to fine-tune. **Nebraska 49, Iowa State 17**

BY THE NUMBERS

Nebraska vs. Missouri
Sept. 29, 2001 • Faurot Field • Columbia, Mo.

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	13	9	14	—	36
Missouri	3	0	0	0	—	3

Team Stats

	NU	MU
First Downs	26	13
Rushing	19	4
Passing	6	6
Penalty	1	3
Rushing Attempts	72	23
Yards Gained Rushing	425	88
Yards Lost Rushing	13	21
Net Yards Rushing	412	67
Net Yards Passing	120	138
Passes Attempted	15	43
Passes Completed	8	16
Had Intercepted	1	0
Total Plays	87	66
Total Net Yards	532	205
Avg. Gain Per Play	6.1	3.1
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	9-85	3-37
Punts-Yards	3-149	10-430
Avg. Per Punt	49.7	43.0
Punt Returns-Yards	8-159	0-0
Interceptions-Yards	0-0	1-16
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-61	3-54
Possession Time	37:07	22:53

Scoring

MU — Brad Hammerich 28-yard field goal

NU — Dahrran Diedrick 1-yard run (Sandro DeAngelis kick)

NU — Diedrick 4-yard run (DeAngelis kick failed)

NU — Josh Brown 38-yard field goal

NU — Eric Crouch 95-yard run (Crouch pass failed)

NU — Crouch 15-yard run (Brown kick)

NU — Jammal Lord 1-yard run (Brown kick)

Att. — 64,204

Temp. — 58

Weather — Mostly sunny.

Individual Leaders

NEBRASKA

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Crouch, E.	17	191	11.2	95	2
Diedrick, D.	24	86	3.6	12	2
Collins, T.	13	46	3.5	9	0
Grixby, D.	6	30	5.0	13	0
Kriewald, S.	2	28	14.0	23	0
Davis, J.	3	18	6.0	7	0
Chrisman, J.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Davis, J.	3	6	2.0	3	0
Lord, J.	3	0	0.0	1	1

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	8-14-1	57.1	120	0
Lord, J.	0-1-0	0.0	0	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Thomas, W.	3	59	19.7	37	0
Wistrom, T.	2	26	13.0	16	0
Gibson, J.	1	17	17.0	17	0
Davis, J.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Collins, T.	1	7	7.0	7	0

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	3	149	49.7	60

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	7	145	20.7	26	0
Cornelsen, B.	1	14	14.0	14	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	2	61	30.5	33	0

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Shanle, S.	6	2	8	1-5	0	0
Booker, D.	5	0	5	0	0	0
Burrow, J.	2	3	5	0	0	0
Vedral, M.	4	0	4	0	0	0
Craver, K.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Hollowell, T.J.	2	1	3	1-12	0	1-12
Ricketts, P.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Groce, D.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Smith, J.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Nelson, C.	1	1	2	1-2	0	0
Adams, D.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Terpening, A.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Davis, J.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Swiney, E.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bingham, R.	1	0	1	1-1	0	0
Slechta, J.	1	0	1	0	0	0

Golliday, A.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Cooper, L.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Brown, M.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Kabongo, P.	0	1	1	0	0	0

MISSOURI

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Abrons, Z.	8	44	5.5	29	0
Farmer, K.	5	15	3.0	16	0
Gilmore, Z.	3	9	3.0	6	0

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Farmer, K.	15-39-0	38.5	128	0
Outlaw, D.	1-4-0	25.0	10	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Blakely, D.	6	47	8.3	16	0
Jackson, T.	4	30	7.5	11	0
Gage, J.	3	46	15.3	28	0

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Harvey, B.	10	430	43.0	56

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Jackson, T.	2	40	20.0	24	0
James, M.	1	14	14.0	14	0

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Doyle, S.	12	1	13	1-3	0	0
Jones, C.	10	1	11	0	0	0
Robinson, J.	7	3	10	1-2	0	0
Johnson, K.	8	1	9	0	0	0
Duncan, A.	8	0	8	0	0	0
Hardin, C.	6	0	6	0	0	0
Wright, K.	6	0	6	0	0	0
Bynum, A.	5	0	5	2-3	0	0
Ferguson, T.	3	1	4	0	0	0
Anthony, G.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Davis, D.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Revard, D.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Harden, M.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Childress, E.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Caldwell, M.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Ain, S.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Washington, C.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Ryan, C.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Leon, T.J.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Kinney, J.	1	0	1	0	0	0
King, M.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Jones, R.J.	0	0	0	1-16	0	0



I-back Dahrran Diedrick looks for an opening. He rushed for 86 yards and scored Nebraska's first two touchdowns.

2001 SEASON 1 STATS

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Diedrick, D.	4	94	470	117.5	7	7
Crouch, E.	5	82	436	87.2	6	6
Collins, T.	5	44	212	43.4	4	4
Kriewald, S.	5	8	52	10.4	0	0
Davis, J.	5	17	52	10.4	1	1
Grixby, D.	2	14	45	22.5	0	0
Stuntz, M.	5	1	15	5.0	0	0
Davis, J.	5	5	24	4.8	0	0
Lord, J.	3	11	15	5.0	1	1
Brye, C.	3	2	14	4.7	0	0

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	5	41-67-3	61.2	633	4
Lord, J.	3	4-6-0	66.7	58	0

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Wistrom, T.	5	16	238	14.9	47.6	2
Thomas, W.	5	15	271	18.1	54.2	1
Gibson, J.	5	8	144	18.0	28.8	1
Collins, T.	5	2	19	9.5	3.8	0
Davis, J.	5	1	11	11.0	2.2	0
Klem, J.	5	1	9	9.0	1.8	0
Golliday, A.	5	1	4	4.0	0.8	0

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
DeAngelis, S.	5	3	2	21
Brown, J.	4	2	1	38

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	23	1,035	45.0	60

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Burrow, J.	5	11	21	32	6-13	0	1.5-9
Shanle, S.	5	12	13	25	3-13	0	1-4
Craver, K.	5	17	7	24	2-3	0	0
Ruud, B.	5	7	17	24	3-4	0	0
Vedral, M.	5	10	12	22	4-10	1-0	1-1
Booker, D.	5	12	8	20	0	0	0
Groce, D.	5	13	3	16	0	1-40	0
Hollowell, T.J.	4	6	8	14	2-13	0	1-12
Kelsay, C.	5	5	8	13	5-10	0	1-5
Bland, P.	5	4	9	13	1-2	0	0
Smith, J.	5	5	7	12	4-19	0	2-15
Slechta, J.	5	2	10	12	2-2	0	0
Ricketts, P.	5	8	3	11	0	0	0
McPherson, L.	5	8	3	11	3-11	0	1-8
Adams, D.	5	4	7	11	2-15	0	2-15
Nelson, C.	5	4	5	9	4-15	0	1-9
Clanton, J.	5	3	6	9	2-18	0	1-15
Pippens, J.	5	5	3	8	0	0	0
Wichmann, J.P.	5	2	6	8	2-5	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS	NU	OPP				
Total Offensive Yards	2,066	1,083				
Plays	360	321				
Average Per Play	5.7	3.4				
Average Per Game	413.2	216.6				
Net Rushing Yards	1,375	337				
Attempts	287	163				
TDs Rushing	19	2				
Net Passing Yards	691	746				
Completions	45	66				
Average Per Pass	9.5	4.7				
Average Per Catch	15.4	11.3				
Average Per Game	138.2	149.2				
TDs Passing	4	2				
Sacks By-Yards	16-125	6-46				
Fumbles-Lost	14-6	11-4				
Penalties-Yards	32-306	38-272				
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	65	44	144	21	0	174
Opponents	17	10	0	10	0	37

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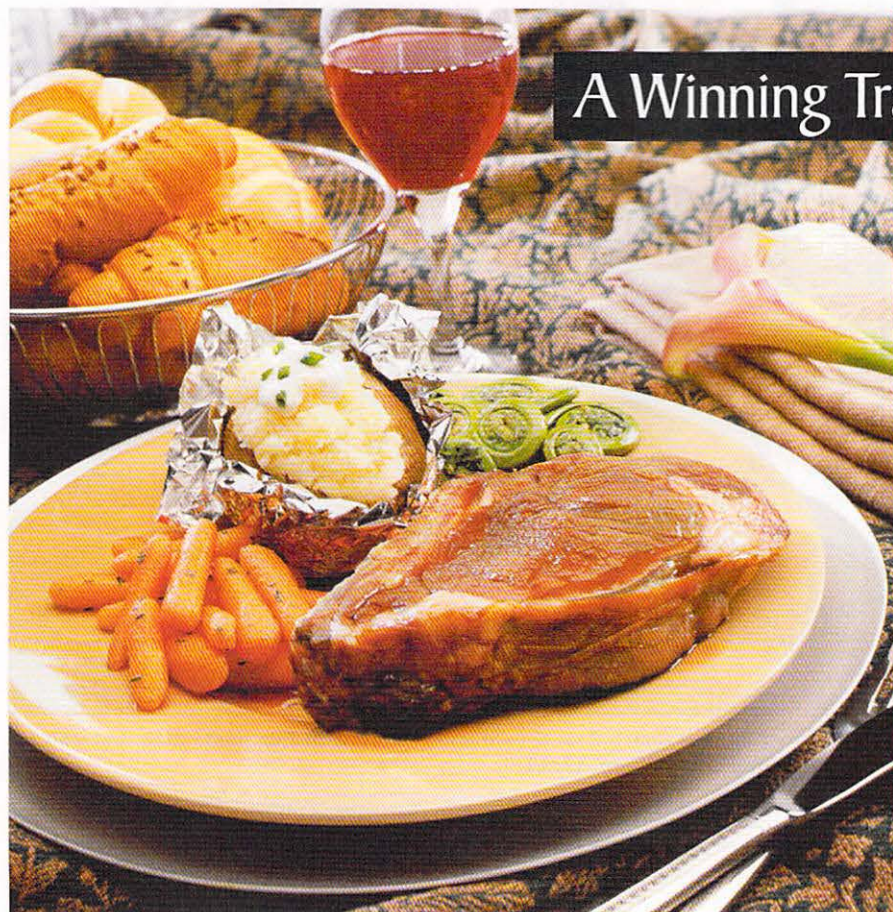
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Loss in Opener Didn't Set Well

Controversy part of Alabama's visit to Lincoln in 1977 season

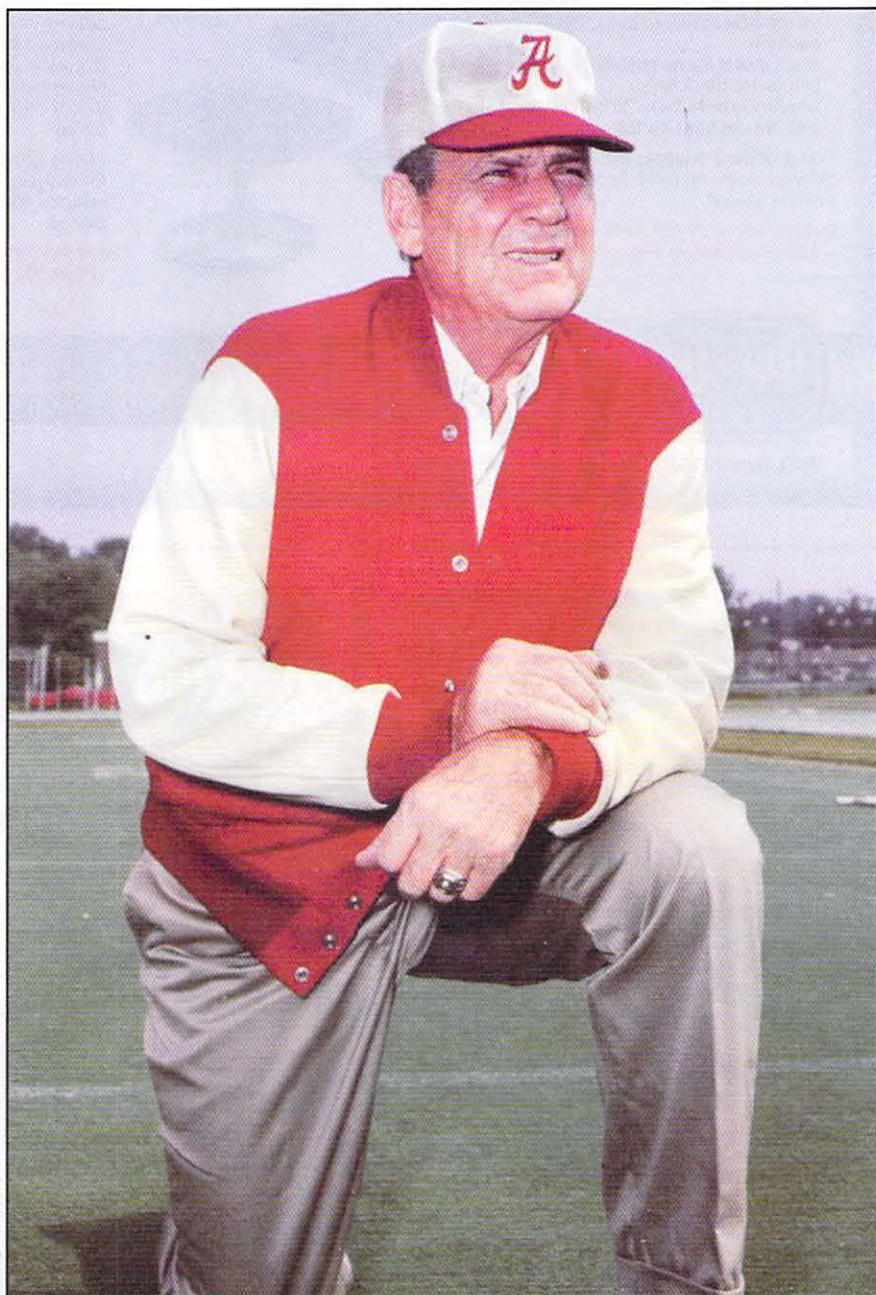
By Mike Babcock

An advisory committee appointed by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents recommended that Memorial Stadium be expanded, that 8,000 seats be added and that a VIP section be built on the stadium's west side, at either end of the press box. The VIP section would accommodate 1,450.

Athletic Director Bob Devaney and Coach Tom Osborne both endorsed the recommendation. Though he had been opposed to increasing the stadium's seating capacity in the past, citing the need for the demand for tickets to exceed the supply, Devaney admitted he had changed his mind.

A study the previous spring indicated as many as 20,000 additional season tickets could be sold. So "I can't take a stand against expansion," Devaney told the Lincoln Star. "It is somewhat of a financial gamble to expand. But I think we could absorb 8,000 more seats without losing demand."

The recommendation was made in early September of 1977, as the Cornhuskers were preparing to open Osborne's fifth season as head coach at home against Washington State. Memorial Stadium would be sold out for an 86th consecutive time, supporting those who favored the expansion.



Legendary Alabama Coach Bear Bryant and the Crimson Tide made their first visit to Memorial Stadium on Sept. 17, 1977.

Despite the sellouts, however, not everyone agreed with the recommendation. One regent wanted a 100,000-seat stadium to be built, while the

committee chair suggested that those unable to get tickets could be accommodated by providing state-of-the-art closed-circuit telecasts of home

Great Games at Memorial Stadium

Fifth in a Series



Nebraska continues to enjoy amazing success in the friendly confines of Memorial Stadium. Entering the 2001 season, the Huskers are 81-3 at home the last 13 years and carry a streak of 239 consecutive sellouts. Since it opened in 1923, Memorial Stadium has been the site of many great games. In each issue during the 2001 season, Huskers Illustrated will feature one of those games.

games. The telecasts could be shown on a large screen in the arena at the newly completed Sports Center complex.

The Washington State game was shown there on closed circuit in conjunction with the State Fair to test that theory. The telecast attracted only 1,500 paying customers, causing Devaney to question if there really was sufficient interest to make stadium expansion profitable after all.

Action on the recommendation was delayed, and then never taken.

Nebraska had a more immediate concern in the aftermath of a 19-10 Washington State upset. With third- and fourth-ranked Alabama coming to Memorial Stadium next, the Cornhuskers faced the very real prospect of their first 0-2 start since 1957, Bill Jennings' first season as head coach.

Nebraska fans had not taken the loss well. Warren Powers, a former Cornhusker and an Osborne assistant the previous season, was Washington

State's head coach, and his staff included former Nebraska players Rich Glover, Zaven Yeralian and John Faiman as well as former assistant Jim Walden.

The Cougars had won on the passing of Jack Thompson. But Nebraska had contributed to its own demise with mistakes, fumbling three times inside the Washington State 10-yard line.

Ticket supply and demand again was an issue, with Alabama fans complaining about the number and the location of the tickets they were offered.

Initially, Nebraska provided Alabama with 4,000 tickets, or 500

more than were provided for other schools that came to Memorial Stadium.

Alabama also complained that the seats were in different sections, separating Crimson Tide fans, and that some of the sections were high in the southwest corner of the South Stadium.

As it turned out, Nebraska sent Alabama an additional 600 tickets. But Crimson Tide Coach Bear Bryant responded on his weekly television show that those tickets had come too late.

But even if they had, that didn't explain why Alabama ended up returning more than 1,000 tickets,

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most of which were immediately sold by Nebraska on the Tuesday before the game.

Some didn't arrive until late in the week, however, and didn't go on sale until Saturday morning. Though the game was a sellout, there were empty seats in the Alabama sections.

Scalpers hadn't done well. Tickets could be had for \$5.

The ticket controversy was only a side issue, of course, for the crowd of 75,889 — and a regional television audience — that watched Alabama's first visit to Memorial Stadium.

Another side issue, but one more directly related to the game, was a comment Osborne had made to Sugar Bowl officials a couple of years before. "Tell that son of a buck not to duck us (in a bowl game)," he told them as he left the field. The "son of a buck" to whom he referred was Bryant.

Osborne hadn't realized that a sports writer was nearby. It "caused me some grief," he said later, describing the remark as "unfortunate, not meant for print and blown out of proportion."

The game turned not on Osborne's

words but on his offensive genius as the Cornhuskers won a back-and-forth contest 31-24, driving 80 yards on 14 plays for the winning touchdown. I-back Rick Berns carried seven times during the drive, and capped it from 1 yard out with 7:12 remaining.

"We just ran out of time," Bryant said afterward.

Berns, a junior from Wichita Falls, Texas, finished with 128 yards rushing, three pass receptions for 22 yards and three touchdowns to earn Big Eight and national player of the week honors. But Osborne's imagination was the difference, as Nebraska's first touchdown drive illustrated.

On a third-and-2 from the Cornhusker 28-yard line, quarterback Tom Sorley handed to Berns, who appeared to be running a sweep around his right end. He pulled up, however, and tossed a pass to wingback Curtis Craig over the middle. Craig gained 36 yards before being knocked out of bounds.

On another play in the series, Berns lateraled to split end Tim Smith on an apparent end around. But Smith lateraled back to Sorley, who

passed to tight end Ken Spaeth for an 11-yard gain.

Sorley reinjured his right shoulder when he was tackled on the play.

The drive was capped on fourth-and-3 at the Alabama 7-yard line when the Cornhuskers lined up as if for a Billy Todd field goal attempt. But holder Randy Garcia, Sorley's replacement, took the snap, stood up, rolled to his right and passed to Berns, who caught the ball and fell into the end zone.

Berns' winning touchdown nearly 40 minutes later also came on fourth down.

The victory, one of nine in 12 games that season, was Osborne's first against a Top 10 opponent, and it ranked "in the top three or four (victories) since I've been a head coach," he said.

Alabama's national ranking contributed to that. But so did its coach, whose trademark fedora was grabbed by a fan at halftime and had to be retrieved by the state troopers who traveled with him.

That was so out of respect for the legendary Bryant, not animosity, Osborne said. ■



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Nebraska Soccer 2001 Home Schedule

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Sept. 2	Alabama-Birmingham	1 p.m.
Sept. 5	Minnesota	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Northern Iowa	7 p.m.
Sept. 23	Evansville	1 p.m.
Sept. 28	Baylor	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Missouri	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	Kansas	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	Brigham Young	7 p.m.
Oct. 28	Texas Tech	1 p.m.
Nov. 2	Iowa State	7 p.m.



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Nebraska Volleyball 2001 Home Schedule

Sept. 7	Pepperdine	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	Notre Dame	1 p.m.
Sept. 9	UCLA	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	Texas Tech	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	Creighton	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Iowa State	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	Missouri	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Oklahoma (Devaney)	TBA
Oct. 17	Brigham Young	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Kansas	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	Texas	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Kansas State	TBA
Nov. 7	Texas A&M	7 p.m.
Nov. 17	Baylor	7 p.m.
Nov. 21	Colorado	7 p.m.



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All Nebraska volleyball home games at NU Coliseum unless noted. All times are central and subject to change.

More Than Ever

Husker junior Holmquist relies on faith in trying times

By Todd Henrichs

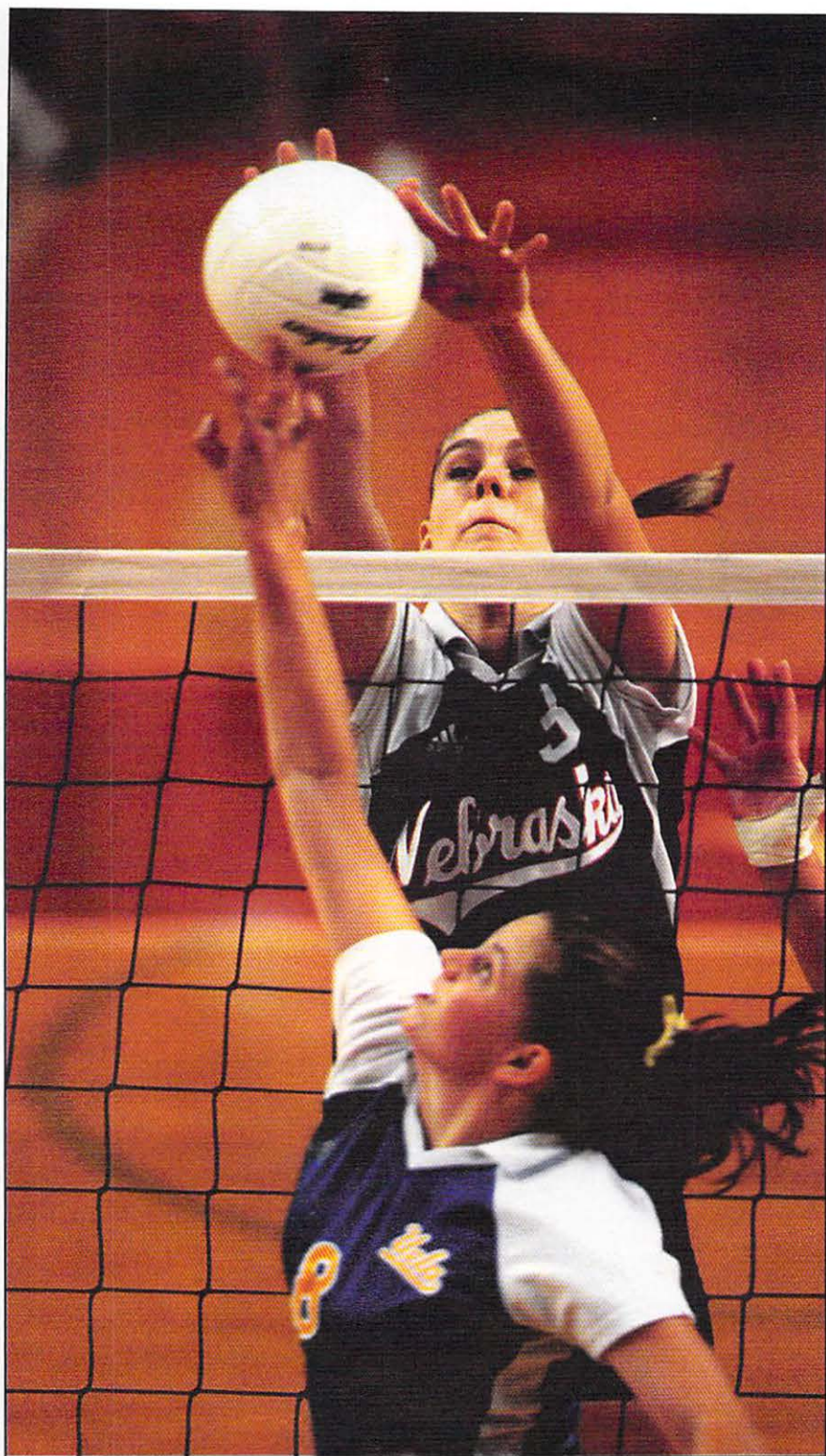
Amber Holmquist has never had a problem keeping things in perspective.

Holmquist led the nation in blocking last season and is on a pace to have her most productive year offensively with the top-ranked Nebraska volleyball team.

But while Holmquist's impressive numbers may be the envy of players from coast to coast, it's the tall Texan you might catch blushing. The 6-foot-4 middle blocker with Nebraska roots insists she'd be nothing without her talented teammates.

"What is so unique about us is that we have such great balance," said Holmquist, one of NU's four returning All-Americans. "I am successful because of that balance. Teams have to look at five or six hitters."

That sense of team was never more valuable than during the last few weeks. Perhaps her finest hour as a Nebraska player came as NU swept three straight ranked opponents in



Amber Holmquist, who led the nation in blocking as a sophomore, was the Huskers' most effective attacker through the first eight matches this season.

winning the U.S. Bank/Arby's Invitational last month. Holmquist was voted most valuable player and later was honored as national player of the week.

The same day the award was announced, Holmquist and her teammates were rocked by the tragedies suffered in New York and near

Washington. Holmquist said she was "deeply affected" to the point where last month's events amounted to a life-changing experience.

"It really opened my eyes to see how fragile life is," Holmquist said. "To be a part of a team like this is such a special thing in my life. I think our whole team realizes that. We're com-

ing together now more than ever, focusing on our own goals and on each other and how we can use this for good.

"Everybody needs to find how they can use this to make their lives more fulfilling."

Already one of the most introspective players at Nebraska, Holmquist is relying more than ever on her faith. She has vowed to become more of an example to others, both through her spiritual desires and by blocking and slugging a volleyball in front of cheering fans.

Throughout these trying times, Nebraska Coach John Cook has stressed the role sports can play in healing a nation. Holmquist sees it as another way to lift people's spirits.

"I'm not afraid to share my faith," she said, "and if I can touch anybody, that's one of my goals."

"I think that athletics, too, will just kind of help others to try to return to the way it was."

The usually bubbly Holmquist pauses repeatedly, carefully choosing her words to describe the emotions of the last month. On the court, she is much less calculating, instead allow-

ing her experience and talent to take over.

Renowned for her blocking ability, Holmquist is on a pace to be the most effective attacker in NU history. In her third season as a starter, the junior from Houston threatens the career hitting percentage mark of .401 set by former Husker Virginia Stahr.

This season alone, Holmquist was hitting .494 through Nebraska's first eight matches, with a remarkable 75 kills in 120 swings with only 16 errors.

Cook isn't surprised. He aimed to get Holmquist the ball more in transition this season as defenses struggled to cover all of Nebraska's options offensively.

It's a plan executed by setter Greichaly Cepero.

"(This is) as well as Greicha and I have connected, and a lot of it has to do with our trust in each other," Holmquist said. "Trust in that we've prepared, that I know where she's going to place the ball and she knows where I'm going to be."

"We've been playing together for a while now, and it's all those experiences together that are making us better."

Against unbeaten UCLA, Holmquist dominated with a 13-kill, seven-block performance. Throw in similar efforts against Pepperdine and Notre Dame and Holmquist was a sure bet for player of the week honors.

She didn't find out, however, until calling her dad for comfort the night of the terrorist attacks.

"It was a very great honor, and I was really excited, but I had to ask 'what am I really playing for?' at that moment," Holmquist said. "We decided the way to respond was just to work hard and go out there and play my best."

Holmquist waited over a week to get that chance. The league postponed matches in light of the tragedy.

Things have slowly returned to normal, but even Holmquist wonders if they'll ever be the same.

"With everything that happened, our team is really trying to stay focused," she said. "The coaches really feel we can use volleyball as a way to escape from our daily thoughts about the tragedy. And when you get out in games, it's our outlet. It's our expression of how hard we work every day." ■

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California Dreamin'

Californians have often played key roles for Nebraska

By Doug Horwich

Nebraska has enjoyed a strong recruiting presence in the state of California over the past decade, and it would be difficult to point to a Husker team during that span that didn't feature California natives playing a prominent role.

With players like Brenden Stai, Ralph Brown, Lawrence Phillips, Abdul Muhammad and Michael Booker starting for national championship teams, and Dan Waldrop and Dion Booker starting on the 2001 squad, it's easy to see why this state



Fred Matua of Banning High School in Wilmington, Calif., one of the top linemen in the country, was in Lincoln for the Notre Dame-Nebraska game.

garners so much recruiting attention from the Husker staff on an annual basis.

As is the case every year, California features some of the nation's top-rated players at virtually every position.

One such player is top-rated offensive tackle Nathan Rhodes (6-foot-7, 305 pounds, 5.1) from East Bakersfield High School in Bakersfield, Calif. Rhodes is considered the top offensive tackle in the country by some recruiting analysts, and the Huskers are in line for a visit.

"I still have the same top four," Rhodes said. "I will take visits to Michigan, UCLA, Tennessee and Nebraska. All four of those schools

are really even. I still haven't decided on a fifth trip."

Understandably, Rhodes' phone has been ringing off the hook for the past month.

"When I woke up at 10 a.m. on Saturday (Sept. 1), I already had messages from five colleges that had called," he said. "In the past couple of days, I have received calls from many more. All of my top schools except for Tennessee have called already. My grandparents are sorting through all of my calls to make sure that I get my rest and that I have time to take care of my studies and football."

Rhodes said he has been reading a lot about his top four schools on the Internet.

"All four have a lot of great things to offer," he said. "I have also watched UCLA, Tennessee and Nebraska play on television over the past couple of weeks."

Rhodes also studies media guides from the respective schools.

"I would say that Nebraska's press guide is probably the nicest," he said, "and Michigan's press guide is the biggest. Both of those schools' guides contain a lot of information."

Rhodes is not the only offensive lineman the Huskers are pursuing in California, however. Stanley Daniels (6-4, 310, 4.9) from Marian Catholic High School in San Diego visited the weekend of the Notre Dame game and left Lincoln with the Huskers in the lead.

"I fell in love with Nebraska while

Nebraska Commitments for 2002

Player	Hometown (school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Curt Dukes	Newton (Newton-Conover), N.C.	6-2	210	QB
Matt Herian	Pierce, Neb.	6-5	225	TE
Mark LeFlore	Omaha (Central), Neb.	6-0	185	WR
Kurt Mann	Grand Island, Neb.	6-4 1/2	255	OL
Jay Moore	Elkhorn, Neb.	6-4 1/2	245	RE
Dane Todd	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	5-11 1/2	230	FB

I was there," Daniels said, "and I almost committed. Everything there was wonderful, but I am also expecting to see lots of wonderful things at Tennessee and the others schools I will visit."

Despite almost committing during his Husker visit, Daniels is determined to take at least a few visits before making his decision.

"I will take a minimum of three visits," he said. "I don't want to put a university in a position in which they have to wait for me. At the same time, though, I want to make my decision wisely. I will pray about it, talk it over with my mother and coaches and then decide where I want to go."

Despite recording 7 sacks and 32 total tackles on defense last year, the Huskers are recruiting Daniels as an offensive line prospect.

"The colleges all want me as an offensive guard or defensive tackle," Daniels said. "I tell the coaches that I will play whatever position that they feel that I can help the team more. I just want to play football."

One reason for Daniels' interest in the Nebraska program is the fact that he loves to run block. Daniels said his best assets are good feet, quickness and getting off the ball.

"I am good at pulling and trapping and getting out on the linebackers," he said. "I probably enjoy run blocking the most, although I am good at pass blocking, too."

Daniels was very impressed with what he saw of the Husker offense and the entire program against Notre Dame.

"Nebraska dominated the whole game," he said. "They went in to prove a point, and I think they proved it. They were more ready and athletic than Notre Dame."

"I was impressed by the team, by the coaching and by the decisions. I was happy to have the opportunity to be there. I liked everything. The coaches were the nicest, but when it came to football they were all business."

Academics will also play a role in Daniels' decision.

"Nebraska's academic support system is great," Daniels said. "They have the most Academic All-Americans of any school, which is very impressive. The facilities are

Local Fullback Picks Huskers

By Rick Shaw

The Nebraska football team scored its sixth commitment of the 2002 recruiting campaign when Lincoln Southeast fullback Dane Todd gave Husker coaches his pledge on Sept. 15.

"I called Coach (Dan) Young and told him that I would be coming to Nebraska next year," Todd said. "I like the facilities in Lincoln, and the honors program is nice. When I sat down and looked at it, it was the place I wanted to be."

The 5-foot-11 1/2, 230-pound Todd chose the Huskers over an offer from Duke. He also was garnering recruiting interest from Iowa, Iowa State, Northwestern and Stanford.

Todd was a first-team All-City performer in 2000 for the Class A State Champion Knights. As a junior, he rushed for 450 yards and 4 touchdowns and averaged 8.6 yards per carry from his fullback position.

Todd's biggest contribution to the Knights' success, however, was helping pave the way for tailbacks Barrett Ruud and Tony Irions to have big senior rushing campaigns. Both Ruud (Nebraska) and Irions (New Mexico State) earned Division I football scholarships in 2001.

Todd is playing a similar role for the Knights in 2001. He gained 80 yards and scored three touchdowns in Southeast's first three victories and again has been instrumental in opening holes for the Knights' tailbacks.

"I know my role," Todd said. "I am one of those guys who preaches about the importance of offensive lineman all year long. I am basically just a glorified lineman who gets to carry the ball once in a while."

Todd, who sports a 4.3 cumulative GPA and is ranked No. 1 in his class of 630 students at Southeast, said that he is anxious to begin his career at Nebraska.

"I'm pretty excited about getting down there," Todd said. "It is nice to get the decision out of the way and know that I will be going to Nebraska next year."

A group of highly touted recruits were on hand to witness Nebraska's 27-10 victory over Notre Dame on Sept. 8.

Running Backs David Horne (Omaha) and Tre Smith (Venice, Fla.), linebacker Stevie Hicks (Omaha), defensive tackle Haloti Ngata (Salt Lake City), offensive guard Stanley Daniels (San Diego) and offensive tackle Fred Matua (Wilmington, Calif.) all took in the sights and sounds of a Nebraska game day. All appeared to come away from the experience impressed with what Nebraska had to offer.

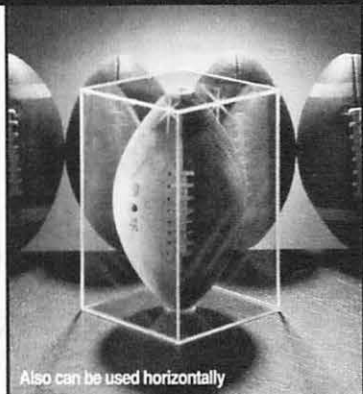
"I thought it was awesome," Smith said. "I liked everything about Nebraska. On a scale from 1 to 10, I would give my visit to Lincoln a '10.' Nebraska leads right now, but I want to take a couple of more visits before making a decision."

Daniels said he and the other recruits like what they saw.

"I think all of us recruits were pretty much on the same wavelength about Nebraska on our visit," he said. "I fell in love with Nebraska. Tre Smith, Haloti Ngata and I were all tempted to commit on our visit. We are all smart young men though and realize that we probably owe it to ourselves to take at least one or two more visits." ■

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outstanding. The team was real tight, too. Everybody on the team is like brothers — it was great.

"My mother has been very impressed with Nebraska and Coach (Frank) Solich. She was very impressed with the fact that Nebraska has the most Academic All-Americans."

Daniels was not the only California lineman to make the trip to Lincoln for the Notre Dame game. Also in attendance on an unofficial visit was Fred Matua (6-2, 290, 5.0) from Banning High School in Wilmington.

"I just went on an unofficial visit with my offensive line coach," Matua said. "We went over there to see one of our ex-players, Dan Waldrop. It was kind of a trip, but it was alright. It was pretty good. I had a lot of fun, but the fans are crazy over there."

Matua is among the top recruits in the nation on both sides of the ball, and different schools are recruiting him for different positions. He said he has no particular preference regarding his future position.

"It can be anything right now that can help the team," he said. "It

would be anything where I could play right now. I don't want to red-shirt; I want to get in there and play."

Although most interior line prospects redshirt during their first year of college, Matua said he feels that he's "not one of those players."

Although most top recruits have a pretty good idea of which schools they will visit by this time in the season, Matua is still wide open and doesn't even have a top-10 yet.

"Right now, I'm undecided until after my football season," he said. "I like all of the teams right now. I really don't have a favorite, as I don't have time to look at colleges right now. I want to concentrate on my senior year. I want to have a good senior year, and I don't want anything to distract me right now."

Matua will focus strongly on coaching stability when he takes a closer look at his list of favorites, and distance will not be a factor in his decision. Despite the fact that he's likely to end up at a Pac-10 school, the Huskers have a reasonable chance to make Matua's final five and get an official visit in December or January. ■

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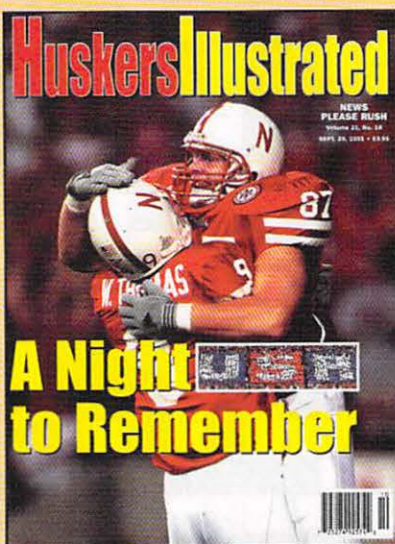
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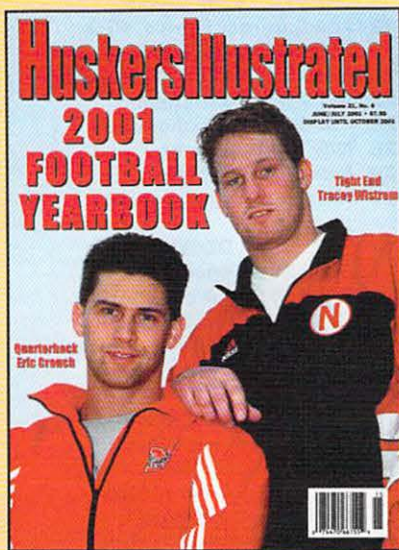
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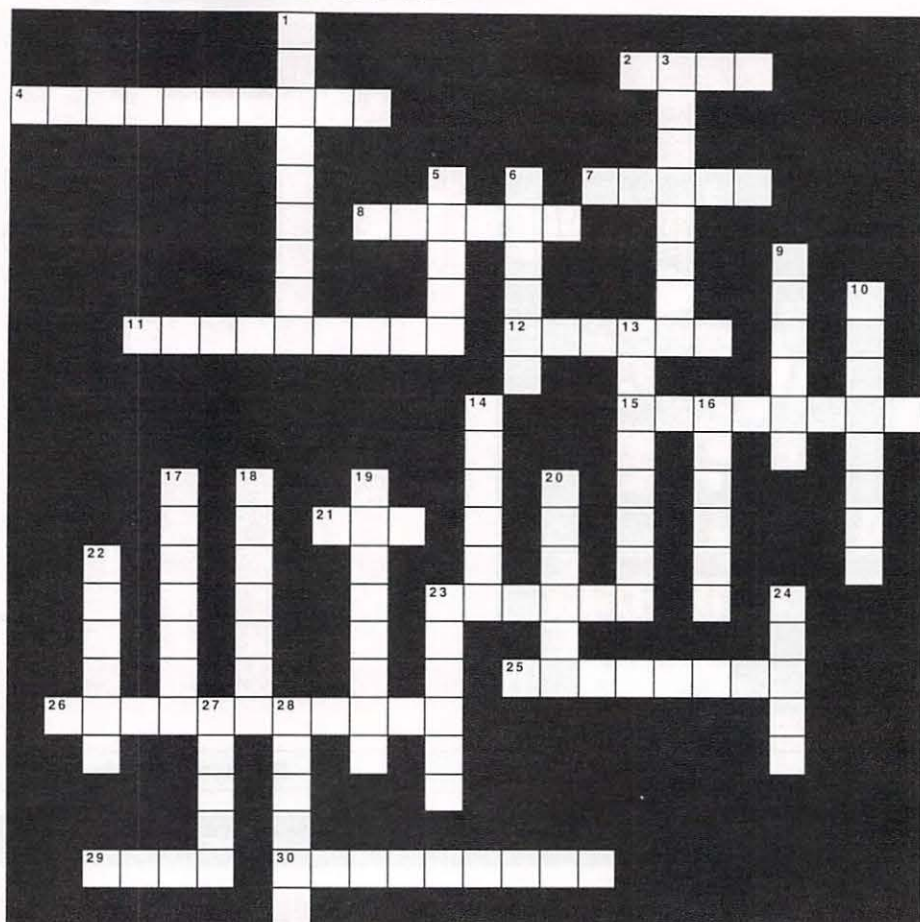
ACROSS

- 2 NU's backup quarterback
- 4 NU's No. 89
- 7 Former Husker quarterback on Iowa State staff
- 8 NU grad assistant
- 11 NU's No. 1 (defense)
- 12 Leading receiver vs. Rice
- 15 Iowa State nickname
- 21 Network for NU-ISU telecast
- 23 NU's No. 16 (defense)
- 25 1994 national champion
- 26 Nov. 10 opponent
- 29 Iowa State location
- 30 Homecoming opponent

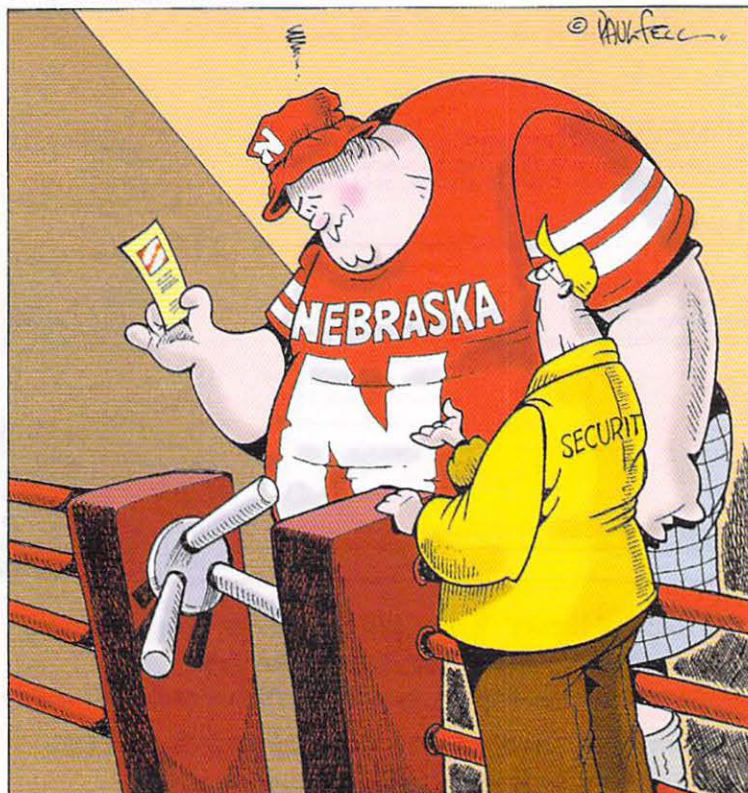
DOWN

- 1 NU's 2002 opener
- 3 2000 national champion
- 5 Green Bay running back
- 6 NU's rating entering Missouri game
- 9 NU's No. 8
- 10 NU's backup fullback
- 13 Iowa State head coach
- 14 NU linebacker from Iowa
- 16 Leading rusher vs. Rice
- 17 NU's No. 1 (offense)
- 18 Leading tackler vs. Rice
- 19 NU's No. 99
- 20 NU's No. 43
- 22 NU's oldest rival
- 23 Baylor head coach
- 24 NU true freshman starter
- 27 NU's No. 98
- 28 NU's No. 16 (offense)

Answers in Oct. 13 issue



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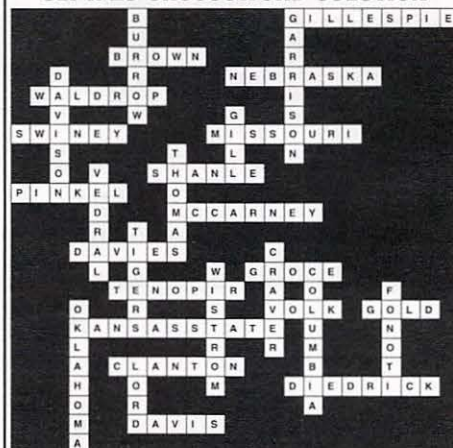
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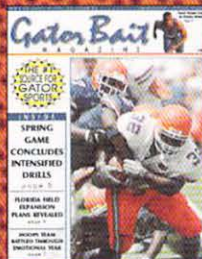
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Divinely Inspired?

Humble Crouch credits others for helping him raise his level of play



Mike BABCOCK

THE QUESTION POSED to Eric Crouch during Nebraska's weekly teleconference on the Tuesday before the Missouri game was difficult to answer without seeming self-indulgent.

Actually, it was a statement rather than a question. But it required a response.

"I was talking to the Missouri players yesterday about you, and they've almost elevated you to a minor deity," a Kansas City writer told the Cornhuskers' senior

quarterback.

Crouch considered what was being asked, by implication, then responded as best he could.

"The big thing about it, my whole career of playing football, I've had to be real humble, not because I've been forced to be, but that's the person I am," he said. "I just love the game."

"I love to go out there and compete. I have a lot of fun out there."

The Tigers might have deified him, but that didn't affect his modesty.

"I enjoy myself and being around the players on this team," said Crouch. "That kind of elevates me to that level of play. I can't give enough thanks to everybody who helps me out in this program."

Crouch gives as much as he receives, however, and that was never more apparent than in Nebraska's 36-3 victory against Missouri. He showed that Missouri's minor deification might have been justified, personally accounting for 106 more total yards than the Tigers had as a team.

He had 311 yards rushing and passing, with 95 coming on a record-setting touchdown run.

The writer from Kansas City also asked Coach Frank Solich about Crouch during the teleconference, though not whether his football ability might be divinely inspired. The question, and it really was a question, had to do with Crouch's decision-making on options, particularly on the corner.

"I think he's the best there is when he's on the edge," Solich replied, "knowing when to pitch, when to turn it up, when to keep riding the option and then making the decision at the last moment."

"You don't get any better, you don't get as good as he is, with the speed with which he turns up the field, and his toughness and his ability to make people miss. That, to me, is just outstanding. When I get going in terms of speaking about Eric, the superlatives come out. But they've been earned."

Crouch's performance against Missouri, coupled with a comparable one against Rice nine days earlier boosted him back into a Heisman Trophy race in which there is no clear-cut favorite.

It's still early in the season for one thing. And most of the

top vote-getters a year ago have moved on to the NFL for another. Running backs Damien Anderson of Northwestern and Ken Simonton of Oregon State are the only returning players to finish among the top 10 in the 2000 Heisman voting.

Anderson finished fifth and Simonton finished ninth, with only six first-place votes (of 796 cast) between them. So neither had much of a head start on this season's field.

Plus, Simonton's team has already lost twice.

Crouch is among at least three quarterbacks in the running, along with Miami's Ken Dorsey and Oregon's Joey Harrington, the subject of a 10-story billboard in New York City.

On the billboard, which cost Oregon boosters a quarter of a million dollars, according to Sports Illustrated, Harrington's last name was crossed out and replaced with "Heisman." His play in a come-from-behind victory against USC a week ago was worth more to his campaign, however.

Marketing has its limits, a fact best illustrated, perhaps, in 1970 when Notre Dame's Joe Theismann finished second to Stanford's Jim Plunkett in the Heisman race even though Notre Dame went so far as to change the pronunciation of Theismann's last name to rhyme with Heisman.

It comes down to performance week in and week out, with a little more emphasis on those weeks when games are televised. And Crouch has performed exceptionally well the last two weeks.

Crouch's candidacy also got a boost when he earned some "jungle karma" by appearing on Jim Rome's nationally syndicated radio show on the Wednesday before the Missouri game.

Rome "has said a lot of good things about me," said Crouch. "In a lot of ways, he's done a good job of kind of promoting this program as being one of the best. A lot of times the national media won't do that for us, and it's really good to have him on our side since he's such a well-known figure."

Exposure on the Rome show is worth as much or more than a billboard in New York City. And the numbers he's posted in the last two games are worth more than either.

"He's a very poised guy, very composed player," Rome said during their 10-minute interview. "He sounds like a senior at Nebraska, (a) very, very poised guy. He approaches it the right way."

But a minor deity? That probably doesn't work.

How about a major football deity? It certainly looked that way against Missouri. ■



Eric Crouch has had two straight impressive outings.

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 20 years. Mike can be reached at mdb@inetnebr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.



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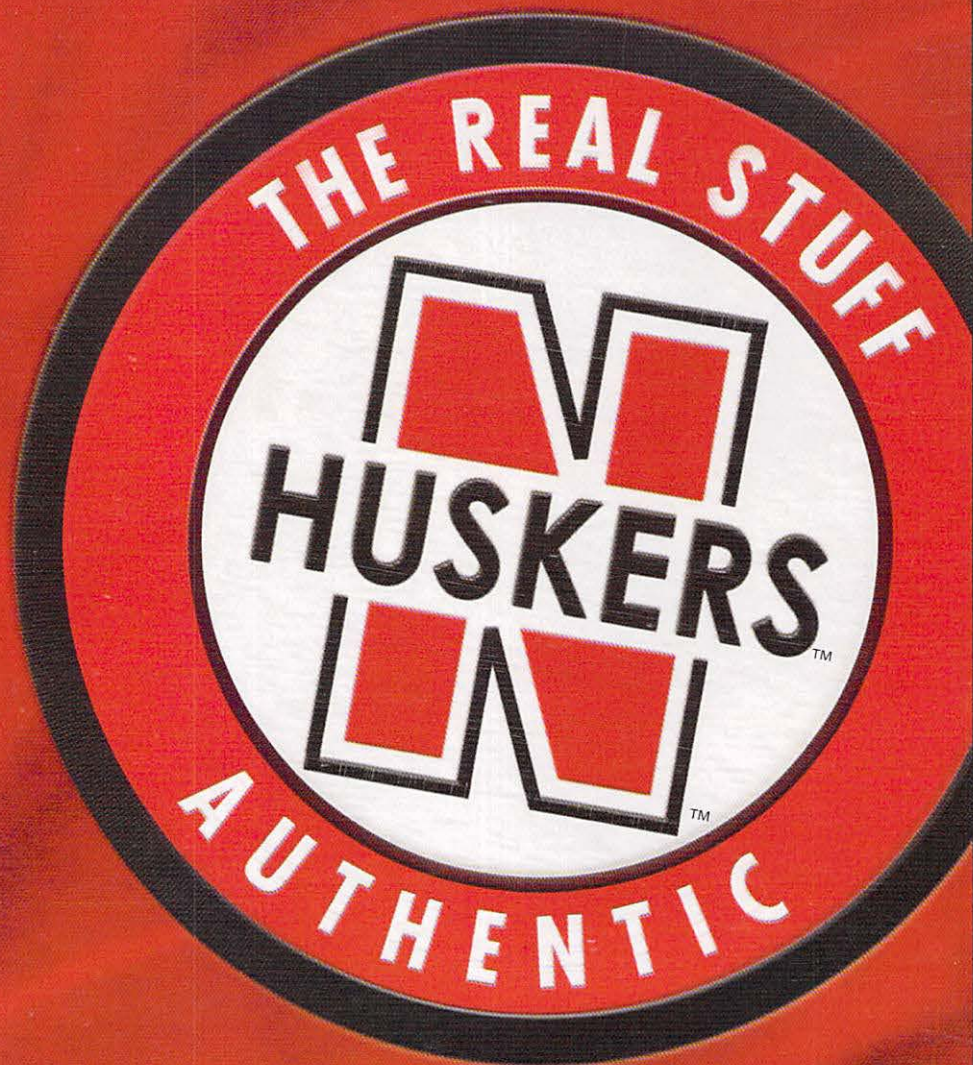


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